



CROSSCURRENTS

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

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MARCH 1981

1980 design and environmental awards announced

*From the Office of the Chief of Engineers;
Washington, D.C.; Jan. 13, 1981.*

Winners of the 1980 U.S. Army Chief of Engineers Design and Environmental Awards competition were announced recently. Twenty-eight Corps of Engineers projects were selected by juries of distinguished professionals to receive awards.

Recently completed civil works and military construction projects were eligible for entry in four competition categories: architecture, engineering, landscape architecture and environmental. Entries judged

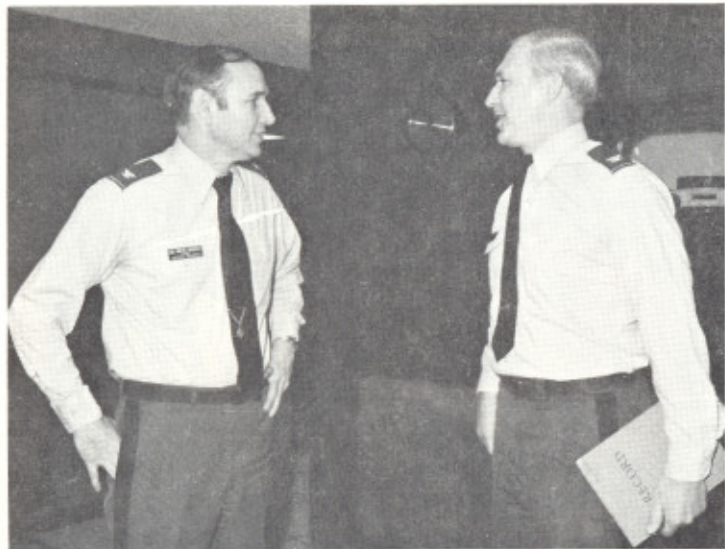
worthy of national recognition received one of three awards: honor award, award of merit or honorable mention. There were 105 Corps projects worldwide entered in the 1980 competition.

The Chief of Engineers Design and Environmental Awards program was begun in 1965 to recognize excellence in design and environmental achievement related to structures completed or areas developed by the Corps and their consulting firms. It also serves as the U.S. Army's support of the Federal Design Improvement Program.

In the category of architecture, the Honor Award went to Walter Reed General Hospital, Washington, D.C., designed under the jurisdiction of the Baltimore District. The Award of Merit went to Harry S. Truman Visitor's Center, Warsaw, Mo., under the jurisdiction of the Kansas City District; Restoration of Gruber Wagon Works, Blue Marsh Lake, Pa., under the Philadelphia District; Dependent High School, Camp Zama, Japan, under the Japan District; and Crosswinds Comfort Station, B. Everett Jordan Dam and Lake, N.C., under the Wilmington District.

In the category of landscape architecture, the Honor Award went to Brooker Creek Park, Lake Tarpon, Fla., under the Jacksonville District. The Award of Merit went to Indian School Park, Indian Bend Wash., Scottsdale, Ariz., under the Los Angeles District; Waterloo Local Flood protection Project, Cedar River at Waterloo, Iowa, under the Rock Island District; and Flint River Flood Control/Beautification Project, Flint, Mich., under the Detroit District. The Honorable Mention went to Charles River Dam, Boston, Mass., under the New England Division.

In the category of engineering, the Honor Award went to Wilford Hall Medical Cen-



TULSA DISTRICT ENGINEER Col. James Harmon (right) visited the St. Paul District on Feb. 12 to learn and share management techniques with Col. William Badger (left). Col. Harmon was briefed on several areas such as Engineering Division, Procurement and Supply Division, Personnel Office, Public Affairs Office, Automatic Data Processing Center, Office of Administrative Services, and Comptroller Office.

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1980 awards

(From page one)

ter Total Energy Plan, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, under the Fort Worth District. The Award of Merit went to Bar Point Harbor Expansion, Ketchikan, Alaska; Floating Cofferdam--Chief Joseph Dam, Douglas County, Wash., under the Seattle District; and Indian School Park, Indian Bend Wash., Scottsdale, Ariz. The Honorable Mention went to Orleans Marina Floodwall, New Orleans, La., under the New Orleans District; Clinton Local Flood Protection, Clinton, Iowa, under the Rock Island District; Lower Monumental Lock and Dam, Snake River, Wash.; Solar System--Airborne and Physical Training School, Saudi Arabian Ministry of Defense and Aviation, Tabuk, Saudi Arabia, under the Middle East Division; Joplin Bridge, Lake Oauchita, Ala., under the Vicksburg District; and Coastal Engineering Field Research Facility, Duck, N.C., under the Wilmington District.

In the environmental category, the Honor Award went to Marsh Creation Along Southwest Pass, Mississippi River, La., under the New Orleans District. The Award of Merit went to Presque Isle Preservation, Erie, Pa., under the Buffalo District; Little Blue Channel, Jackson County, Mo., under the Kansas City District; and Brooker Creek Park, Lake Tarpon, Fla., under the Jacksonville District. The Honorable Mention went to Blue Marsh Lake, Berks County, Pa., under the Philadelphia District; Wappapello Lake Wildlife Management Plan, Wappapello, Mo., under the New Orleans District; Rend Lake Wildlife Management Program, Benton, Ill., under the St. Louis District; and Indian Park School, Indian Bend Wash., Scottsdale, Ariz., under the Los Angeles District.

Corps crew indicted in alleged scam

by Larry Millett

From the "St. Paul Pioneer Press/St. Paul Dispatch," Feb. 7, 1981; St. Paul, Minn.

Four civilian employees of the Corps of Engineers in St. Paul were indicted by a federal grand jury on Feb. 6 on numerous charges of filing false travel expense claims.

The indictment alleges that the four men made false claims totaling about \$24,000 from 1976 through 1979. All the allegedly false claims were for lodging expenses in various motels in the Twin Cities area and in such Mississippi River communities as Lake City and La Crescent.

Named in the indictment were: Robert G. Radtke, of Elmwood, Wis., who is charged with 25 counts of making false claims that total \$9,300; Robert C. Halvorson, of Elmwood, Wis., who is charged with making 23 false claims totaling \$7,600; James S. Engle of Pepin, Wis., who is accused in 12 counts of making false claims that total \$4,179; and John D. Larson, of Pepin, Wis., who is charged with nine counts of making false claims that total \$2,800.

A Corps spokesman said the four are crewmen on one of the agency's dredges. An internal investigation led to the charges, he said. Any disciplinary action is being postponed pending the outcome of the federal case, he added.

Each of the charges against the men carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a fine of \$10,000.

The next deadline is March 27.

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Blanche Hom*

Study calls for swift costly safeguards for river wildlife

by Dean Rebuffoni

Text from the "Minneapolis Tribune," Feb. 8, 1981; Minneapolis, Minn.

After spending six years and \$3.6 million investigating the upper Mississippi River, a state-federal team has called for quick and expensive measures to protect the river's rich fish and wildlife habitat.

It said stream-bank erosion must be controlled along Wisconsin's Chippewa River and other tributaries that discharge silt and sand into the upper Mississippi. The team said this man-made sedimentation has accelerated the natural decline of valuable backwater lakes and sloughs. It is "the most serious problem facing the river environment."

It also urged the Corps of Engineers to keep improving the way it deposits sand and mud dredged from the river's 9-foot-deep navigational channel. But it stressed that commercial navigation is vital to the nation's economy, and said that while the environment must be protected, funds also are needed to reduce constraints on barge traffic.

The Great River Environmental Action Team (GREAT) conducted the investigation. It was made up of officials of five federal agencies and the states of Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa, and operated under the auspices of the Upper Mississippi River Basin Commission. The effort included federally financed studies of the upper river's ecosystem by scientists from the three states.

The investigation focused on the 244 miles of the Mississippi from Minneapolis to Guttenberg, Iowa; the lower 25 miles of the St. Croix River, and the lower 15 miles of the Minnesota River. All of those river segments have a 9-foot-deep channel for barge traffic.

The team was started in 1974 largely because environmentalists and scientists were concerned that the Corps' dredging practices were harming backwater sloughs and lakes. The team's key agencies were the Corps and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which administers the sprawling Upper Mississippi River Wildlife and Fish Refuge.

In the 1930s the Corps created the 9-foot channel by building large dams and



Wayne Knott, Corps coordinator of the GREAT study.

locks across the Mississippi. That raised the river's level, and converted it into a series of wide pools. The water also inundated a long stretch of bottom land, creating backwater lakes and sloughs and an abundance of habitat for fish and wildlife.

But those areas have been steadily filling with silt and sand. It has been estimated that, since the locks-and-dams system was completed in 1939, sediment has changed about 25% of the open backwater areas to marshland.

Also, the Corps has deposited its dredged wastes in some of the side channels that lead into the backwaters, blocking the flow of fresh water to those areas and choking aquatic vegetation.

As part of GREAT, the Corps has revived some backwaters by reopening the side channels. It also has altered its dredging practices and, under pressure from Wisconsin and Minnesota officials, deposits much of the dredged wastes in state-approved, on-land disposal sites.

In its final report, GREAT recommends that Congress appropriate the funds needed to begin or improve several programs along the upper Mississippi and the short stretches of the St. Croix and Minnesota Rivers. Among them:

* A program giving the Corps enough money to continue their 9-foot-channel project while allowing them to undertake some to the

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Bridge problems threaten clam

(From page three)

by Claudia Waterloo

From the "Des Moines Register," Jan. 29, 1981; Des Moines, Iowa.

As if the closing of the bridge over the Mississippi River connecting Marquette, Iowa, and Prairie du Chien, Wis., hadn't caused enough problems, it now appears to be threatening an already endangered species.

Environmental forces are girding for a fight over the lowly Higgins eye, and ordinary looking clam but an endangered species, which lives in the upper Mississippi. The largest known population of Higgins eye clams inhabits the east river channel at Prairie du Chien.

That's the same waterway officials are considering dredging to open for commercial traffic if the west channel, which now handles all but local traffic, would be closed.

It's too early to say yet what the fate of the Higgins eye will be. First, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation has to determine whether the bridge spanning the west channel is in danger of collapsing on anything passing underneath it and then notify the Coast Guard, which will decide whether to close the channel.

The Corps of Engineers, which has responsibility for maintaining navigation on the river, is coordinating efforts in the event the east channel must be expanded to accommodate barge traffic.

"I'm sure in the final analysis if the Higgins eye clam or navigation had to go, it would be the Higgins eye clam," said Jim Braatz, public affairs director of the St. Paul, Minn., district of the Corps. "To shut down shipment for even one season would be catastrophic."

In late March or early April, when ice clears and the river opens, barges bring needed coal and petroleum products up the river to feed hungry power plants. Also in the spring, agricultural fertilizers are shipped to farmers. One of the chief functions of barge traffic later in the season is to carry farm products, mostly grain.

The six-year-old bridge was closed Jan. 16 after a four-inch crack was discovered in one of its support plates.

environmental-protection steps recommended by GREAT.

* An accelerated program to stop stream-bank erosion along the upper Mississippi and its tributaries by getting more farmers and other landowners involved in soil conservation.

* A program to minimize or eliminate constraints on commercial navigation. Such constraints include a lack of acceptable areas for barge fleeting and terminals and some bridges that impede efficient and safe barge traffic.

* Development of a recreation plan for the upper river by the Corps and the Wildlife Service. More than 3 million people live along the Mississippi in the study area, including the 2 million residents of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. This is expected to grow to 5 million by the year 2025.

* A program under which the Wildlife Service would develop a new plan for managing its 294,000-acre refuge. It would identify ways to protect certain rich backwaters and revive some areas lost to sedimentation.

Officials of the Corps' St. Paul District, which includes the study area, are preparing a report that specifies what the Corps might do to carry out the GREAT recommendations.

More areas identified as wetlands

From the "Minnesota Volunteer," Vol. 44, No. 254, January-February 1981; Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

A new satellite survey by the Corps of Engineers revealed that the northern Great Plains regions, including Minnesota, contains more than twice as much wetland acreage than previously thought.

The discovery is good news for wetlands because any landowner who wants to alter a wetland must receive a Corps permit. So, twice as much land will now be subject to this restriction.

Corps officials originally estimated two million acres of wetlands, but the satellite revealed 4.9 million acres. The Great Plains region totals 440,000 square miles in Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Missouri, Iowa, Wisconsin, Montana, Nebraska, Wyoming, and Colorado.

Inside-city flood project cost may hit \$100 million

by John Weiss

Text from "Rochester Post-Bulletin," Jan. 21, 1981; Rochester, Minn.

The in-city portion of Rochester's flood control project could wind up costing up to \$100 million--with city taxpayers footing up to \$21 million--and the project will "pretty dramatically change" the appearance of the city's streambanks, according to project planners.

Dale Mazar, Corps of Engineers project manager in St. Paul, said present estimates are that the in-city project will cost about \$75 million alone. In addition, the Soil Conservation Service is working on a smaller \$14.4 million portion that would build seven reservoirs upstream along streams that flow through the city.

Mazar admitted that when the project is finally started in 1984 (if all goes as planned), inflation probably will have raised the cost to around \$100 million.

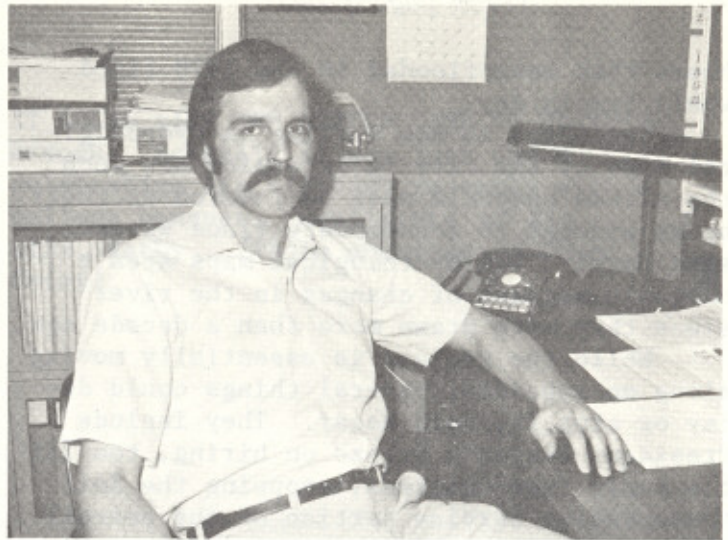
Under the present plan the Corps would pay \$56 million, the city \$16 million and the state \$3 million. But if the final pricetag hits \$100 million, the Corps would pay \$75 million, the city \$11 million and the state \$44 million.

He cautioned that these are rough estimates and the final funding could change. Once the project receives final approval, the interest for construction funds is frozen, so any higher interest rates after that won't affect the project, he added.

Reducing the size of the project if it becomes too expensive might lower the ratio of costs to benefits, he said. At present, the Corps has "optimized" the project to get the greatest benefits for each dollar spent, he said. The present cost-benefit ratio is \$1.15 in benefits for every \$1 spent.

The project itself would have a great effect on how the streambanks and streams of the city would look, he said.

A major engineering concept for the project is called the channel-within-a-channel, which consists of a channel for the regular flow of the river with a much larger channel built on both sides to accommodate flood waters. In some places, the channel's perpendicular cement walls would be imprinted with designs to make them less harsh looking, said Mazar.



Dale Mazar, Corps project manager.

Present plans continue to show ample space inside the cement walls for people to walk and sit. Some have suggested sidewalk cafes or picnic benches be built next to the river in the downtown so people can eat there during nice weather. That suggestion has not been incorporated into Corps plans.

In other areas, trees along the streambanks will have to be removed and many sections will be ripped up. Each stream also will have a cement drop structure or levee on its upstream part in the city, he said.

The Corps plans to minimize the barrenness of the resulting nearly treeless banks by helping the city build parks and plant trees farther back, he said. A beneficial change of the project will be that people will be able to see the streams more easily, he said.

The project has received design funds but has not been totally approved and funded by Congress, he said. The Carter budget called for \$530,000 in advanced engineering and design funds and it is still hoped construction can begin in 1984.

If all goes as planned, final design work will be done in August 1982, and the Corps will then prepare specifications for bidding, he said.

According to a Corps diagram, damage from a flood that would statistically occur once every 100 years would be significantly reduced in the city and many hundreds of

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Rochester project

(From page five)

homes that were flooded in the 1978 flood would remain dry.

The Corps is now working on hydrological maps of the city to determine how much the stream channels must be lowered or their banks widened to accommodate flood waters, said Mazar. Old hydrological maps aren't adequate because of changes in the river since they were drawn more than a decade ago.

While the project is essentially moving along on schedule, several things could delay or stop it, said Mazar. They include President Reagan's freeze on hiring, too little money from Congress, stopping the Soil Conservation Service portion of the overall plan or inability of the city to finance its share of the costs, he said.

Canadians still object to Garrison

From the "Fargo-Moorhead Forum," Jan. 24, 1981; Fargo-Moorhead, N.D.

Canadian officials are still worried that the Garrison Diversion project in North Dakota will hurt commercial fishing in their country despite assurances by the United States, U.S. officials say.

The assurances were delivered at a three-day meeting ending Jan. 23 between Canadians and members of the U.S. Water and Power Resources Service. But Canadians went away from the meeting unconvinced that Garrison would not disturb fishing in the Hudson Bay drainage area, said Danny King, chief of hydraulics for the Interior Department agency.

The \$830 million project would irrigate 250,000 acres of farm land in central and eastern North Dakota, and would provide water for 14 cities in the eastern part of that state, officials said.

Water from the Missouri River would be diverted for use in the drainage basin of the James, Red, and Souris rivers under the project.

Canadians are concerned that non-game fish such as carp might be carried into the Hudson Bay drainage area by the Red and Souris rivers as a result, King said.

Eagles spotted along river

From the "Telegraph Herald," Feb. 2, 1981; Dubuque, Iowa.

Forty mature bald eagles--America's symbol--have been spotted along the Mississippi River in western Wisconsin, where only a few have ever been seen.

That's good news for a group trying to keep the national bird alive in the continental United States.

An eagle spotter said he saw 40 mature birds, two immature bald eagles and two golden eagles in the Lynxville area along the Mississippi River in the western part of the state.

The spotter was Carl Noel, lockmaster for the Corps of Engineers Lock and Dam 7 near Lynxville, who counts eagles for several government and environmental groups.

"The reason there is so many is that there is a lot of shad (fish) going through the gate there," Noel said. The eagles feed on the shad.

Steve Anderson, a spokesman for Eagle Valley Environmentalists Inc., based in Apple River, Ill., said that the find is encouraging, but that the eagle is still in trouble in the lower 48 states.

The chief eagle nesting areas of northern Wisconsin, Minnesota and Upper Michigan have about 400 nesting pairs, Anderson said.

"Some states are almost absent of eagles, so there definitely is a problem," he said.

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Water held back to ensure river traffic

by Lori Rotenberk

Text from "Minneapolis Star," Jan. 27, 1981; Minneapolis, Minn.

The span of warm weather and the lack of precipitation in Minnesota during January could dry up some of the states environmental and economic resources, come spring.

The Corps of Engineers in St. Paul is keeping a close watch on the water level of the Mississippi River and has begun holding back water in state reservoirs in an effort to save water for the spring.

The flow into the river is down about 25% from normal because of the lack of fall and winter moisture.

Fremont Jewell, chief of the Corps of Engineers water control center, said that "in the interest of conservation," release of water from Leech, Winnibigoshish, Pokegama, Sandy, Pine and Gull lakes, all in the northern and central parts of the state, has been decreased. The lakes are among the major suppliers of the Mississippi River.

The Corps is already preparing for a drought similar to the one that settled over the country last summer.

"It is really unknown at this time if the warm weather and the lack of rain and snowfall will give us problems in the spring," said Jewell. "If it doesn't look like we'll be getting a spring run-off and heavy spring rains by May 1, we could be in serious trouble."

This is the second winter in a row, Jewell said, in which precipitation has been low.

"It seems the weather has been turning around like this for the past 10 years," said Jewell. "Thirty years ago we were getting heavy snows, but the environment has changed in that time period."

Officials in the St. Louis, Mo., area have contacted Jewell, asking what can be done to maintain an adequate water level in the Mississippi River there.

Barge traffic on the Mississippi hasn't yet declined due to lower water levels, said Kelsey Willis, operating technician at the Corps water control center.

"The levels are about normal in Minnesota for this time a year; there haven't been



Fremont Jewell (left) and Kelsey Willis.

any serious problems to date," Willis said. "But that could turn around quickly if there isn't a heavy rain or snowfall."

If the river becomes too low for (barge) transportation, some of the cargoes could be handled through the Port of Duluth.

"If things get rough for some the companies, it's possible that there could be more exports on Lake Superior," said William Cortes, Duluth-Superior port director.

Cortes said that barges making return trips to Minnesota frequently carry petroleum and coal products. If the water level falls too low, the generally heavier return cargoes would have to be lightened by not carrying as much, thus raising the cost of shipping, Cortes said.

"But everything still hinges on what will become of the weather in the next two months," he added.

Party chairperson wanted

The annual district holiday party is fun for all only if someone takes charge and makes the necessary plans and arrangements.

Now is your chance to exert your influence to become the Christmas party chairperson.

Interested persons should contact John Blackstone at 725-7704, no later than March 13. Remember, only 256 shopping days left.



New at the library

by Jean Schmidt, AS-L

Just between us

Congratulations go to Craig Hinton, CO-MA, who recently passed the Professional Engineers Test.

Congratulations go to the following new moms and dads: Brian and Julie Teigland, DO-P, on the birth of son Nicholas John, born Feb. 10 at 8 lb., 1 oz.; Jan and Don Powell, ED-PB, on the birth of daughter Anne Marie, born Feb. 9 at 8 lb., 2 oz.; and Kathy and Al Forsberg, ED-PB, on the birth of son Paul Thomas, born Feb. 4 at 8 lb., 4 oz.

Fond farewell and good luck go to following who retired recently: Richard H. Libby retired from the St. Anthony Falls Locks and Dam on Dec. 13, 1980 after 22 years and 10 months with the Corps; Floyd R. Carlson retired from Lock and Dam 1 on Dec. 29, 1980 after 14 years and 10 months with the Corps; Milton O. Roppe retired from the Mississippi River Projects office in La Crescent on Jan. 9 after 17 years and 10 months with the Corps; Leonard A. Hohmann retired from Lock and Dam 5 in Minnesota City on Jan. 16 after 33 years and seven months with the Corps; and Carl A. Mikkola retired from the Dredge Gaillard at the Duluth Area Office on Jan. 16 after 22 years and nine months with the Corps.

Sincere sympathy is extended to the family of Grant N. Logan who passed away Jan. 26. Grant retired from the Comptrollers Office in September 1979.

Sincere condolences are extended to the family of Clarence W. (Butch) Buending who passed away on Feb. 4. Butch worked with the Corps from 1933 to 1973; he worked in the Construction-Operations Division including at Lock and Dam 4, Lake Traverse, Lock and Dam 2 and St. Anthony Falls Locks and Dam. Butch lived in Hastings, Minn., and is survived by his wife Margaret and a sister.

The St. Paul District Technical Library will permanently feature a give-away table where materials will be given away free to anyone. Stop in at Room 1120 and browse through the give-away collection.

The following articles appeared recently in periodicals received by the library. These articles are of general reading interest and can be obtained through the library:

"Acid Rain and Gray Snow." Natural History, Vol. 90, No. 2; pp. 58-59.

"Corps Chief Boosts Engineers." Engineering News Record, Feb. 5, 1981; pp. 23-24.

"Dam Safety." Emergency Management, Winter 1981; pp. 16-21.

"Hydropower: A Step Toward Energy Independence." American Water Works Association Journal, February 1981; pp. 76-81.

"Sediment Problems in the Upper Mississippi River Basin." Iowa Conservationist, February 1981; pp. 10-11.

"Spectral Characteristics of Wetland Habitats." Photogrammetric Engineering and Remote Sensing, Vol. 47, No. 2, February 1981; pp. 223-227.

"USGS: It's Water Resources Research Activity." Environment, Science and Technology, Vol. 15, No. 2; February 1981; pp. 140-143.

"Waging War Against the Cold is the Job of a Unique Army Lab." Smithsonian, February 1981; pp. 102-111.

"Organic Pollutants in Water: Identification and Analysis." Environment, Science and Technology, February 1981; pp. 156-162.

Financial reporting system developed

by John Blackstone, ED-GH

Recently, the Employees Benefit Fund (EBF) developed a new way of reporting the financial status to its members.

This system, developed by the talented Gordon Heitzman, ED-GH, involves a three-tier method of reporting the financial status. This new method evolved because of a report submitted by the last auditor suggesting that EBF develop a method of reporting.

The new report has been posted near the elevators in the district office and should be in a visible location at field sites.

New copier machine available for use

by LeRoy Lorinser, AS-R



Bob Mike (left) and Paul French.

A new Xerox 5600 copier recently replaced a Xerox copier in Room 1115.

It is capable of producing finished copies at the rate of 45 per minute. Standard features include recirculating document handler and automatic two-sided copying. Multipage copysets are automatically collated and offset stacked in a convenient offsetting catch tray.

It copies from various weights of originals intermixed without feeder adjustment. It adjusts copies lighter or darker at the push of a button. An auxiliary paper tray allows changing from white to colored stock or from standard to legal size, also with the push of a button.

Bob Mike, Room 1109; Ken Tschida, Room 1110; and Paul French, Room 1136, have been designated as key operators. A number of district office employees were instructed in the operation of the 5600 copier by a representative of the Xerox Corp.

The copier will be available for usage from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. It will not be in operation after hours or on weekends.

As a reminder, the Xerox 7000 copier in Room 1416A is available for overtime work. Arrangements for usage and keys must be checked out with the Reprographics Branch Room 1321A.

Delinquent advances causes problems

by David Glad, DC-F

Travel advances are a privilege, not a right. If you have a delinquent, unused travel advance please pay it back before other actions become necessary.

Alternative actions sometimes create hardships, so please solve any problems you might have in this area before any of the following actions are taken:

- * Lump sum deduction from your paycheck for the total delinquent travel advance.
- * Installment repayment to the Finance and Accounting Branch (only if the unused advance exceeds 25% of your gross pay per pay-period).

Please note that if these actions become necessary, we will remember and your chances for future travel advances may be in jeopardy.

Drinking can affect others

Drinking! You can see what it's doing to them but can you see what it's doing to you.

Did you know that alcoholism is the third largest disease in the country right behind heart disease and cancer. You might also know that over half of the traffic accidents are alcohol related.

What you may not know is that alcoholism can affect the non-drinker more dramatically than it does the drinker. Alcoholism can lead the non-drinker to divorce, child abuse or even suicide. If someone you love has a drinking problem and you don't know what to do about it, call Al-Anon at 222-3211.

Watch those payroll checks

by Judy Parnell, DC-FR

Congratulations go to all personnel who are not on the Direct Deposit program; you received your paychecks in the mail on Feb. 2, instead of Feb. 5 or 6. This was an accident so please don't feel that getting your check in the mail is faster because it is not. Wait until March 15 when the airline pilots may go on strike and there is no airline service out of Omaha, Neb., as is now the practice. A guaranteed payday is a form of security, so please sign up for Direct Deposit and know that you will always have your money by Wednesday of each and every payweek.

Please check your earnings and leave statement each payday to ensure that all areas are correct. These statements provide not only leave balances and net pay, but other information as well. If you find a discrepancy, contact me in Room 1422, 725-7057.

Scouts tour Lock & Dam 1

by John Blackstone, ED-GH

Cub Scouts from Webster Magnet School, Pack 429, toured the facilities of Lock and Dam 1 on Feb. 7 and 21.

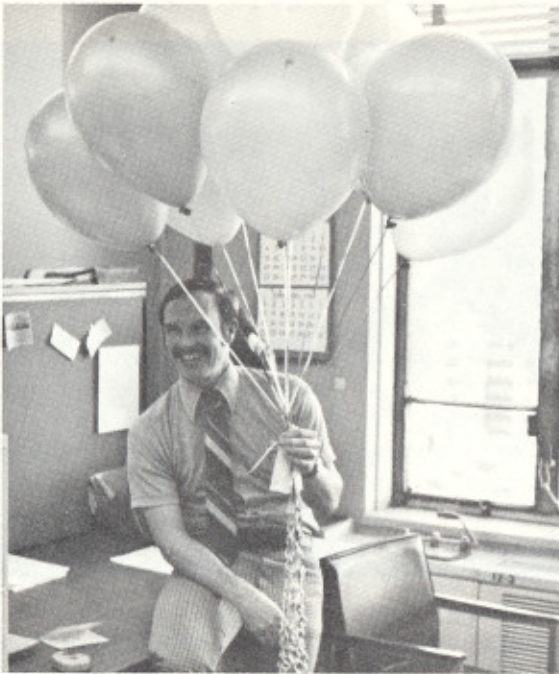
The scouts were shown a 20-minute slide presentation before proceeding on a tour of the rehabilitative construction work, including a fish-eye view of the newly installed tainter gate.

The scouts asked several questions, including what happened to all of the fish and what is that pencil-like thing. With gentle aplomb, Mike Schwalbe, project engineer, fielded all questions explaining every facet of the operation.

Cub Scout Pack 429 extend a thank you to all persons involved in the tour and especially to Mike.



DRINKING MUGS BEARING THE CORPS CASTLE and the inscription "St. Paul District" may be purchased through the Employee Benefit Fund (EBF) for \$12.50. Each mug costs EBF \$10.50 and the two dollar profit will go into EBF's general fund. A name plate bearing the owner's name, nickname or other personalized inscription will be provided beneath the castle at no additional cost. A sample mug will soon be displayed in the district office, 12th floor display case. These mugs make great gifts or mementos for all present or former Corps employees. Contact Al Geisen at 725-7638 for all orders; please allow approximately two weeks for delivery.



IT LOOKS LIKE THE CIRCUS CAME TO PLANNING Branch. Actually it was just Chuck Crist celebrating his birthday recently with a balloon bouquet, compliments of his wife, Kathy. (Photo courtesy of Chuck Crist)

Letter of appreciation

The following letter was received from former St. Paul District Engineer Col. Forrest T. Gay, III, who was recently selected for promotion to brigadier general:

I can't tell you how much your very special card of congratulations means to me. When I opened the large envelope from St. Paul I was overwhelmed. Seeing the care and the skill and the thoughtfulness with which Jean Thurmer, Dale Lynch and others had made it and the kindness of all of you in signing it brought back a flood of pleasant memories...and made it a little difficult for me to see clearly for a few minutes.

Being selected for promotion at this level involves a great deal of luck. My good fortune was to be assigned to St. Paul with all you good people. Anyone would look good as your district engineer...you have so much talent, so much dedication, so much patriotism. My association with the St. Paul District will be one of the proudest periods of my life..

Thank you for your loyal support and for your memorable message of congratulations. I shall always treasure both.

Lost credit cards causes problems

by Bob Mike, CO-A

The General Services Administration has a growing nationwide problem related to the number of reported lost or stolen U.S. Government National Credit Cards, Standard Form 149, which are furnished with motor vehicles assigned or dispatched from the Interagency Motor Pool System (IMPS).

The most recent report from the credit card contractor shows that over 70% of the lost or stolen cards are those assigned to IMPS vehicles. In some instances, cards issued for the same vehicle have been reported lost or stolen two or three times.

This clearly demonstrates the failure of some drivers to realize the importance of safeguarding the credit card. This card, like any commercial credit card, provides easy access to goods and services and the Corps of Engineers is fully responsible for all charges when the lost or stolen credit card is fraudulently use.

In addition to the possibility of fraudulent use, the added administrative costs in obtaining a replacement IMPS credit card are growing and are currently calculated to be at least \$35 for each card.

If you have any questions on the proper use or control of the credit card, please contact me at 725-7547.

Bassett Creek plans may take new course

by Shirley Nygaard

Text from the "New Hope-Plymouth Post," Feb. 5, 1981; New Hope, Minn.

Plans to prevent flooding along Bassett Creek, Minn., may have to take a different course, possibly without the federal assistance once considered crucial to the project.

For more than 10 years the communities within the Bassett Creek Watershed (Golden Valley, Crystal, Robbinsdale, New Hope, Plymouth, Medicine Lake, Minneapolis, Minnetonka and St. Louis Park) have counted on the participation of the Corps of Engineers in constructing and paying for flood control prevention. It now appears, however, that such participation could cost the communities more money than if they go it alone.

The Bassett Creek Flood Control Commission (BCFCC) and its engineering firm prepared a flood control plan for the area that called for increased flood water storage areas along the creek, flood-proofing of some homes and removal of other homes.

Without flood control improvements it is estimated that a 100-year storm could flood 2,700 acres, 222 residences and 18 industries. Less severe flooding has already occurred along the creek, particularly following heavy rains in 1975 and 1976.

But in reviewing that plan Corps engineers decided some of the flood control measures were inadequate, and they recommended larger and more expensive measures.

While the original flood control plan would have cost the local communities \$1.2 million and the federal government \$798,000, the revised Corps plans would cost the local communities \$2.2 million and the federal government \$1 million.

Those figures do not include the local cost of right-of-way acquisition for easements on property that would be flooded.

The problem appears to be that the Corps is not accustomed to working with flood control projects the size of the Bassett Creek plan, which is considered closer to a storm sewer project than a flood control program.

"The Corps is usually involved in bigger projects," said Doug Baird, Bassett Creek project manager for the Corps. "Federal standards are pretty conservative.



Doug Baird, Corps project manager.

Golden Valley City Manager Jeff Sweet added, "It is difficult to apply the Corps' standards to a project this size. They are used to building dams on major rivers. Municipal standards aren't the same."

There is also a difference of opinion on hydrology studies for the Bassett Creek Watershed. Hydrology is an analysis of what happens to storm water when it hits the ground; where it goes and how fast it moves. The BCFCC engineering firm, Barr Engineering, has one hydrology study and the Corps has a totally different study. Baird said the Barr hydrology report was never acceptable to them and that the Corps' plan is based on their own hydrology.

The Bassett Creek communities are now at a crossroads: reduce the features of the plan to make it affordable, or seek alternative funding for parts of the plan. At any rate, it appears unlikely that the communities will go ahead with the plan the Corps has in mind; the plan which would cost \$1 million more.

The communities hope, however, that the Corps will continue its involvement in the flood control plan further downstream, specifically at the outlet into the Mississippi River. The new outlet there is a major construction project and is extremely expensive.

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Bassett Creek project

(From page twelve)

Free offer really is free

by John Blackstone, ED-GH

Baird said that even if the Corps is not involved in the flood control project upstream, its involvement in the outlet project would not be jeopardized. However, he added, downstream plans could be affected by what the communities do upstream.

The entire Bassett Creek flood control project has had a history of delays since its beginnings in the late 1960's. The BCFCC was established in 1969 and by 1975 a flood control plan was developed. The project was authorized by Congress in 1976; however, no money was appropriated until 1979.

Changes made by committee

by Sharon Brown, EE

The "Corps Cares" motto was used for the Corps of Engineers slogan four years ago and is still in practice today.

The St. Paul District Handicap Committee has been working to make changes that reflect the motto. Three dramatic changes have been made over the last year. You may have noticed the braille lettering on the elevators. This was requested to aid visually handicapped people locate the correct floors.

The second change was to lower the emergency assistance telephones in the elevators to make them more accessible. A bell was also installed outside the main lobby to request assistance from the guard.

Both restrooms on the 12th floor have recently been remodeled to allow for wheelchair accessibility. This was done at the request of the District Handicap Committee since no other restroom facilities are available in the district office building for people in wheelchairs.

Changes like these show that the Corps cares. More still needs to be done. If you have any suggestions, comments, or want to be involved, contact any of the following committee members: Sharon Brown or Phil Campbell at 725-7481, Richard Laddusire at 725-7514, Delores Sudeith at 725-7519, Peggy Reid at 725-7517, Ron Wolney at 725-7556, or Dennis Cin at 725-7543.

How many times have I seen an ad or received a phone call making me a free offer. With much knowledgeable skepticism I view this free offer with the ever enlightened gaze that indicates I am about to be had -- swallowed whole! Daily, such a barrage of detailed information falls upon me that I approach life like a duck and let much of it run off my back. These days, if I am offered one more free thing it will require a trip to the poor house.

I do know that there are some free things that I like and enjoy. Clean air. The view outside my office window. The camaraderie of my fellow workers. Friends. Walking in the skyway after lunch. Watching a small child. These are things that cannot be purchased for any price; they are free.

We at Heritage Toastmasters Club are sure that we have something that you can't buy; we offer it free. It does require that you are present to receive that special commodity we have to offer.

There is one more thing about this deal that is unique. If you attend one of our meetings, we will receive something we don't have. You. Your presence is what we will receive free. Think about it. I invite you to attend our next meeting Thursdays at noon in the PEDC rooms on sixth floor. It's free.

Federal Women's Program news

by Denise Blackwell, CO-RF

Congratulations go to Donna Kell, formerly in the Comptroller Office, who was recently selected in an Upward Mobility position. Donna was hired as an environmental protection clerk in the Regulatory Functions Branch with the goal of being promoted to an environmental protection specialist. Good luck in your new position.

"Constructive Feedback: The Road to Improved Communications" will be the topic for the March YWCA Continental Breakfast. Loria Darage-Scott, a senior vice president, industrial relations, at Scott, Scott, Darage and Scott, Inc. will be the guest speaker. The breakfast will be held at the St. Paul downtown YWCA on March 25 at 7:30 a.m. Breakfast is \$3 per person and advance registration is required. For more information or to register, call 222-3741.

Federal Women's Day for 1981 is scheduled for May 2; mark your calendar now. More information will be forthcoming.

Travelers guide to surviving a hotel fire

*From the Public Relations Department, 3M;
February 1981.*

1. Stay at hotels that have hall and room smoke detector/alarms and sprinkler systems. (Some travelers carry their own smoke detectors.)
2. When you check in, seek information about emergency evacuation procedures and the hotel's system for notifying you in case of fire. Know the phone numbers of the front desk and the local fire department.
3. After checking into your room, plan an escape route. Never consider an elevator as a fire exit. Walk down the stairway exit closest to your room until you find a door leading directly to the outside. Check to see if the stairway has roof access. If not satisfied that you can escape to safety in case of fire, request another room.
4. Before going to bed, place your room key on the nightstand, where you can easily retrieve it if you must hurry from the room. (You will need the key if fire or smoke forces you back to your room.) If you smoke, thoroughly crush out all ashes.
5. Fill the ice bucket with water (for dousing a small fire or wetting a towel.)
6. Keep your path to the door or window clear of obstacles.
7. If something wakes you during the night, investigate it before going back to sleep.
8. On smelling smoke in your room, grab the key and crawl to the door. The air five feet above the floor could already be contaminated by odorless carbon monoxide. If the fire is in your room--get out, close the door and sound the alarm (located near exit stairway). If the door is hot, don't open it. If it's warm, slowly open the door to check hallway conditions. If the hallway appears passable, crawl along the wall on the same side as the exit.
9. If you run into heavy smoke when going down a clear stairway, turn around and go to the roof. If neither the hallway nor the stairway permits escape, return to your

room, close the door, and call the front desk or fire department. Try to alert outsiders by waving and yelling from the window.

10. Fill the bathtub with water and place wet towels or bedding against door cracks to keep smoke out of the room.

11. If necessary, hold a wet towel over your nose and mouth to filter out smoke. Use an ice bucket to drench the door, rug, walls and everything else if you feel threatened.

12. If there is a fire outside the window, pull down the drapes and move all burnable items away from the window.

13. If you're any higher than the third floor, your chances of surviving a jump are slim. You would be better off fighting the fire and waiting for rescuers to reach you.

Golf league being formed

by Wayne Koerner, ED-PB

The 1981 St. Paul District Men's Golf League is being organized and this is your chance to get involved. There has already been considerable interest shown but we are still in the need of additional golfers who are interested in becoming a regular or a substitute player.

The league will be handicapped and consist of two or four-man teams, depending on the number of golfers. We will play every other Monday, starting May 4 and ending Aug. 24. The tentative plans are to rotate play between Phalen, Highland and Como golf courses. Tee-off will begin at approximately 3 p.m. The cost for 18 holes will be approximately \$8 per match which would cover the cost of green fees (\$7), reservations, trophies and prizes. The final 3 weeks of fees will be collected prior to the first match.

If you are interested in becoming a regular or a substitute player, please contact me at 725-7565 or Greg Schroeder, ED-PB, at 725-5980, as soon as possible.

1980 fishing contest result in big catches

by Wilbur Walleye

The 1980 St. Paul District Fishing Contest was a fishing success story. Participation in the contest was very good, with 177 fish entered by 36 persons.

Of the fish entered, 50 fish were bonus-sized and two were real whoppers classified as "trophy" fish. The trophy fish were an 18-lb., 4-oz. northern pike caught by Stan Kumpula on Lake of the Woods; and a 28-lb., 15-oz. chinook salmon caught by Dale Mazar on Lake Michigan.

An awards ceremony was held on Feb. 24 to recognize the outstanding performers. The awards were funded by the Employees Benefit Fund. A summary of the top fishermen and women and the top branches are listed in this issue of Crosscurrents.

Bruce Norton and the Regulatory Functions Branch walked away with top honors.

The challenge is out for the 1981 contest. Be sure to enter the fish you catch in the 1981 contest. Contact a member of the 1981 fishing committee to obtain a copy of the 1981 rules and entry blanks.



From left to right are Dale Mazar, winner in the trout category; Tom Heyerman, pan-fish category; Wayne Koerner, other category; and Don Kohler, gamefish category.



Representing the Regulatory Functions Branch, winner in the overall branch category, is Dave Ballman (left). Receiving the highest honor of being fisherman of the year is Bruce Norton.



Harry Novak is the recent winner of the belly-up award for his fishing misadventures.

STATUS REPORT : ST. PAUL DISTRICT FISHING CONTEST

as of 31 December 1980

DISTRICT FISHERMAN RANKINGS		
(name)	(points)	
1) Bruce Norton	84	
2) Don Kohler	73	
3) Dave Haumersen	58	
4) Dale Mazar	51½	
5) Tom Heyerman	47	

BRANCH RANKINGS	
(branch)	(points)
1) Regulatory Functions	196
2) Design	154½
3) Planning	125½
4) Environmental	114
5) Geotechnical, Hydraul. & Hydrol.	38

category

leaders

GAME FISH				PANFISH				TROUT				OTHER			
(name)	(pts)	(br)		(name)	(pts)	(br)		(name)	(pts)	(br)		(name)	(pts)	(br)	
1) Don Kohler	37	RF		1) Tom Heyerman	30	D		1) Dale Mazar	51	D		1) Wayne Koerner	29	PB	
2) Stan Kumpula	35	GH		2) Dave Haumersen	28	PB		2) Bruce Norton	32	RF		2) Don Kohler	27	RF	
3) Bruce Norton	20	RF		3) Robbin Blackman	25	ER		3) Dave Ballman	26	RF		3) Dave Haumersen	23	PB	
4) Gary Palesh	18	ER		4) Bruce Norton	15	RF		4) Jerry Smith	22	ER		4) Greg Frankowsky	20	D	

SPECIES

RANKINGS

(name)	(size)	(pts)	(br)	(name)	(size)	(pts)	(br)	(name)	(size)	(pts)	(br)	(name)	(size)	(pts)	(br)
MUSKELLUNGE:				CRAPPIE:				RAINBOW TROUT:				BULLHEAD:			
1) Stan Kumpula	35½"	10	GH	1) Tom Heyerman	14½"	15	D	1) Mike Wright	18½"	10	CT	1) Diana Tschida	15¾"	10	FA
2) Mike Wright	32"	7	CT	2) Dave Haumersen	13¾"	7	PB	2) Don Kohler	15"	6	RF	2) Wayne Koerner	15½"	17	PB
3) —				3) Wally Scofield	13½"	5	FA	3) Bruce Norton	15"	6	RF	3) Herb Nelson	13¾"	5	PB
NORTHERN PIKE:				BLUEGILL:				BROWN TROUT:				CATFISH:			
1) Stan Kumpula	44"	25	GH	1) Bruce Norton	10"	15	RF	1) Bruce Norton	19½"	20	RF	1) Dave Haumersen	30½"	15	PB
2) Don Kohler	36½"	12	RF	2) Robbin Blackman	9½"	7	ER	2) Jerry Smith	15½"	7	ER	2) Bruce Norton	29"	17	RF
3) Bruce Norton	34"	5	RF	3) Ed McNally	9¼"	5	ER	3) Dave Ballman	15"	5	RF	3) Don Kohler	22½"	10	RF
WALLEYE:				PUMPKINSEED:				BROOK TROUT:				SAUGER:			
1) Gary Palesh	27"	15	ER	1) Gary Palesh	8¾"	10	ER	1) Jerry Smith	14"	15	ER	1) Greg Frankowsky	21½"	20	D
2) Fred Whebbe	26¾"	17	D	2) Robbin Blackman	8¼"	7	ER	2) Dave Ballman	13"	12	RF	2) Tom Heyerman	18"	7	D
3) Don Kohler	25½"	10	RF	3) Dave Haumersen	8"	4	PB	3) Bruce Norton	12"	5	RF	3) Ed McNally	16"	5	ER
LARGEMOUTH BASS:				YELLOW PERCH:				SALMON:				WHITE BASS:			
1) Bruce Norton	19"	15	RF	1) Barb Haider	12½"	10	SP	1) Dale Mazar	40½"	25	D	1) Joel Face	15½"	15	D
2) Dave Haumersen	17¾"	7	PB	2) Tom Heyerman	12¼"	11	D	2) —				2) Don Kohler	15"	11	RF
3) Barry Drazkowski	16½"	5	ER	3) Robbin Blackman	12¼"	11	ER	3) —				3) Wayne Koerner	15"	11	PB
SMALLMOUTH BASS:				ROCK BASS:				LAKE TROUT:				OTHER:			
1) Don Kohler	20¾"	15	RF	1) Martin McCleery	11½"	10	PB	1) Dale Mazar	31½"	25	D	1) Ed McNally (carp)	43"	10	ER
2) Diana Tschida	18½"	7	FA	2) Dave Haumersen	11¼"	17	PB	2) Dave Ballman	27"	6	RF	2) Tom Heyerman (carp)	27"	6	D
3) Robbin Blackman	14¼"	4	ER	3) Fred Whebbe	11"	4	D	3) Mike Doherty	27"	6	RF	3) Don Kohler (carp)	27"	6	RF