“Henry P. Bosse: Views on the Mississippi,” opened in a major exhibition at the Ramsey County Historical Society in St. Paul, Minnesota, February 4, 1993. Bosse was a “draughtsman” with the Corps during the late 1800s. The Bosse photos are prized for their exceptional composition and capture how the Mississippi River looked during Mark Twain’s era. The exhibit continues at the Landmark Center, 75 W. Fifth St., St. Paul, through July. Exhibit hours are Monday through Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday until 8 p.m. and Sunday 1 to 5 p.m. More photos, page 3.
From the Midwest to the Middle East

Jim Ruyak and his son cross paths in Kuwait

By Joan F. Kibler, Public Affairs officer
Courtesy of Transatlantic News

The last place that Jim Ruyak expected to see his son, a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army, was Kuwait. But last November, a month into his third tour in Kuwait, the unexpected happened: First Lt. Marc Ruyak deployed to Kuwait to help set up a Patriot missile unit.

“We hadn’t seen each other in a year, and you just don’t expect to run into one of your children halfway around the world,” Ruyak said. “Marc was here for less than two days. When his commander heard that Marc’s dad was here in Kuwait City, he was kind enough to let him spend the night with me. It was great seeing him.”

The younger Ruyak made it back to Kuwait later, but due to a hectic schedule, father and son shared only dinner at Camp Doha.

Marc followed in his father’s footsteps to obtain a degree in civil engineering, but his path came from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. After graduation, Marc chose air defense as his branch and now serves as a battalion tactical officer for the Patriot missile system. He is stationed in Saudi Arabia.

Jim Ruyak is on temporary duty travel as the resident engineer at Ali Al-Salem air base. He works at the Corps’ St. Paul District as the area manager for the headwaters lakes project in northern Minnesota.

Two more district campgrounds accept reservations

A reservation system will be available at two more St. Paul District recreation areas in northern Minnesota. Corps campgrounds at Gull Lake and at Cross Lake will accept reservations by telephone or in person beginning March 1, 1993. The reservation fee is $2.

This brings to five the number of Corps recreation areas that accept reservations in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Other district recreation areas that accept reservations are Lake Winnibigoshish, Deer River, Minnesota; Sandy Lake, McGregor, Minnesota; and Eau Galle Lake, Spring Valley, Wisconsin.

Thirty percent of the camp sites at Gull Lake and 17 percent of the camp sites at Cross Lake are available for reservations. Gull Lake offers a total of 39 sites. Cross Lake offers a total of 120 sites. Cross Lake offers complete handicap accessibility, including bathrooms and showers. User fees at Gull Lake and Cross Lake are $10 for non-electric and $13 for electric hook up.

The Gull Lake recreation area is located near Brainerd, Minnesota and the Cross Lake recreation area is at Cross Lake, Minnesota. For reservations phone:

Cross Lake: 218-692-2025;
Eau Galle: 715-778-5562;
Gull Lake: 218-829-3334;
Sandy Lake: 218-426-3482;
Winnibigoshish: 218-246-8107.
Pictures at an exhibition

In the photo at right, St. Paul District Historian John Anfinson, left, and District Commander Col. Richard Craig talk with Joanne Englund, president, Ramsey County Historical Society, prior to a reception honoring the work of Corps of Engineers' photographer Henry P. Bosse. Over 120 people attended the opening night of the exhibit presented by the Ramsey County Historical Society. Each photo is placed on a wall map that approximates the Mississippi River location in which Bosse took it. Six foundations and a number of private business supported the historic display.


Photo by Jon Lyman

Photo by Ken Gardner
President Clinton issues message for Engineers Week

Editor's note: Headquarters transmitted the following message from the President of the United States to salute our nation's engineers during National Engineers Week, February 14-20, 1993. The message came in after the Crosscurrents February deadline.

Engineers have always been major contributors to our nation's prosperity and quality of life. Now, as our country embarks in a new direction, engineers will be key players in finding solutions to many of our challenges ahead. From environmental cleanup to international competitiveness, from rebuilding our infrastructure to assuring a reliable energy supply, it is engineers who'll be called upon for the creativity to move our country ahead.

It is fitting that you mark your annual observance with visits to our nation's classrooms to inspire the leaders and workers of tomorrow . . .

President Bill Clinton

It is fitting that you mark your annual observance with visits to our nation’s classrooms to inspire the leaders and workers of tomorrow with the wonders and opportunities of technology. A technically literate workforce is essential to our future success.

I am pleased to join all Americans in saluting our nation's engineers during National Engineers Week. I look forward to the opportunity of working with you to ensure a bright future for our nation.

/s/ Bill Clinton
Project highlights

St. Paul Project enhances downtown river front

Wedged on the Mississippi River in downtown St. Paul between district headquarters and the Minnesota Department of Revenue, the St. Paul Project is one of seven major flood control projects currently under construction. The $20.2 million, three-stage project is scheduled for completion in September 1994. The photo at left shows part of the $1 million stage one construction, which was done in November 1992. The top photo shows construction of the 900-foot stamped-concrete walkway between a previously existing flood wall and the new stage one wall. When pressed onto raw concrete, the stamping form (center) creates a shallow relief that gives the walkway the look of hand-laid cobblestone. Workers added red coloring dust to enhance the look.

At left, Brian Stahle, an ROTC cadet, Greg Johnson and Karen Nagengast, landscape architects, Planning Division, and Terry Williams, civil engineer, Design Branch, inspect the rock form-work of the flood wall. The pattern and beige coloring simulate a native stone used in several downtown St. Paul office buildings. The Corps worked closely with the City of St. Paul to incorporate recreation features that will allow the public to bike, walk or jog along the river front. The walkway is handicap accessible. The project will offer 568-year flood protection when complete.
Bits and Pieces

Reorganization on hold for review

The Corps-wide reorganization, announced by the Chief of Engineers last November, is on temporary hold, pending review and approval by the new administration.

Secretary of Defense Les Aspin requested a review of the reorganization proposal and has asked for a briefing on the plan.

While no date has been set to brief the secretary, several briefings have occurred between the Corps and Aspin’s staff.

The first phase of the reorganization was scheduled to be implemented on February 1. The first phase involves realigning districts under six new divisions and phasing out five division headquarters. Under this part of the plan, the St. Paul District would become part of a new North Central Division with headquarters in Cincinnati. At this time, there is no date for activating the new divisions and realigning the districts.

The second phase of the reorganization involved the consolidation of engineering, planning and real estate functions at 15 regional technical centers, including one at St. Paul. This phase is not scheduled for implementation until FY 94 and is not impacted by the current delay.

District wins EEO award for 5th year

For the fifth consecutive year, the St. Paul District has won the Equal Employment Opportunity Trophy Award in the North Central Division. The 1992 award recognized the district as a leader in ensuring equal employment opportunities for all employees.

Lois Pream achieves DOD course honors

Lois Pream, a procurement assistant in Contracting, was an honors graduate from a Department of Defense Small Purchase Basic course at Ft. Lee, Virginia, in January.

Harry Carlson

Harry Carlson, who was employed as a civil engineer for the St. Paul District for 32 years, died suddenly on February 15 at age 85. He worked in the old Planning Branch of Engineering Division. He contributed significantly to the Upper Mississippi River Comprehensive Basin Study in the 1960s. He began his career with the district in the construction of locks and dams.