

The Center Scene



The Christmas spirit was apparent at the EROS Data Center in the form of this Christmas tree, decorated with red velvet bows, each representing an employee's \$10.00 gift toward food for the needy of our community. Above, Senator Larry Pressler purchased a bow right after Mr. Allen Watkins announced that more than \$1,000 had been contributed. Tom Holm, EROS Data Center Employee Association president, waited in the background to crown the tree with a lighted star to signify the success of the "Friendship Tree" project. (See related stories, Up Front Column, page 2).

EROS' ROLE IN U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, NATIONAL MAPPING DIVISION

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) is an agency of the Department of the Interior that produces and provides accurate maps, useful information on the composition and structure of rocks, data on surface and ground water, knowledge of Earth history, appraisal of the Nation's potential energy and mineral resources, classification of Federal lands, supervision of oil, gas, and mineral lease operations on Federal and Indian lands and on the Outer Continental Shelf, and maps and publications that provide information about the results of these activities.*

The general functions of the National Mapping Division, (NMD) are described according to the Geological Survey Manual, "In support of the Geological Survey's mission to provide information about the Earth and its physical resources, the National Mapping Division provides geographic, cartographic, and remote sensing information, maps, technical assistance, and conducts related research responsive to National needs."

The EROS Data Center (EDC) became a part of the National Mapping Division in December 1982. Following

that merger, a number of changes were made in the EDC organizational structure to ensure that EDC expertise and resources are fully utilized in its support of the Division's long-term goals and plans.

The new organizational structure of the Data Center includes the Office of the Chief and three Branches: Data Production and Distribution, Computer Services, and Technique Development and Applications, which includes the Alaska Field Office. Three offices, directly responsible to the Center Chief, are Administration, Technical Information, and Digital Spatial Data Technology.

Mr. Watkins noted, "The current organizational structure reflects changes in the mission and responsibilities which have evolved during the past 10 years and reflects the increased emphasis on the development of digital spatial data handling and manipulation capabilities and improves functional clarity of responsibilities on the Branch level."

(*Excerpted from *The United States Geological Survey, U.S.G.P.O.: 1981-335-331.*)

EDC NEWSPAPER LAUNCHED

On September 28, 1971, an initial staff of 13 persons opened the EROS Data Center in temporary headquarters in downtown Sioux Falls. The facility was designated by the United States Department of the Interior as a national center for processing and disseminating spacecraft and aircraft images of the Earth and for training users in the applications of such data. Since that time, the Data Center has grown to a staff of nearly 350 and it has embarked upon a much broader research, development, and operational mission to develop new ways of handling the complex types of data and information required for the management of our country's lands and resources. Numerous significant programs and projects are continually being developed at EDC. However, many of these activities are relatively unknown except within the areas in which the work is done. One of the primary purposes of this newspaper is to keep all areas of the Center informed of current activities and events from throughout the facility and to overcome communication barriers between branches and offices. This first issue presents an overview of the Survey and the National Mapping Division, and previews some of the columns that will be published from time to time. Items of interest are welcome from any individual or working group. Anyone interested in writing for or helping to produce *The Center Scene* is encouraged to contact the editor at extension 283.

EDCEA EXPANDS

The first social event planned by the original EROS Data Center Employees Association (EDCEA) was the 1972 Christmas party held at The Galley. The EDCEA, formed nearly 12 years ago, provided a valuable service and social outlet for EDC's 50 employees, many of whom had moved to a new community without family or friends. The organization was quite informal and a major fund-raising activity was keeping the pop and candy vending machines filled.

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UP FRONT

Congratulations to EDC employees for your wholehearted, generous support for the "Friendship Tree" project. When I proposed this endeavor at the EDCEA Christmas Party, I suggested a goal of \$1,000, knowing that this would be in addition to your earlier gifts of more than \$14,000 to the United Way.

I was overwhelmed by your response. Tom Holm and Judy Collins, EDCEA members who took over the logistics of the project, reported that \$1,400 was contributed to the Sioux Falls Food Pantry, and that a large number of food, clothing, and toy items and an additional cash gift were also given, for distribution by the Salvation Army.

Knowing that we helped others in our community to have a better Christmas made mine happier. I'm sure that it also made your Christmas more special this year. Let's make this an annual tradition.

I am happy to share the following letter with all EDC employees.

Allen H. Watkins

Dear Mr. Watkins:

We wish to extend our thanks to the EROS Data Center for the very generous contribution to the Food Service Center on December 23, the check in the amount of \$1,400, as well as the groceries. This assistance will go far in our services to the needy.

It is only through such help that our operation of the Center continues and it is growing. In 1982 we gave a three-day supply of provisions to 5,115 persons in need. This year's (1983) will total much more.

Your support is deeply appreciated. We wish you and all the personnel at EROS a very happy and prosperous New Year!

Sincerely,
Madeline Boos
Director, Food Service Center Inc.
(Formerly the Food Pantry)
614 East Eighth Street

NEWS BRIEFS

The EDCEA election of new officers will be held soon. Anyone interested in running for office should contact Dave Hastings, extension 114, or any officer.

Elected to the EROS Vanpooling Association Board for 1984 are Terry Bobbie, Doug Brock, Ron Meyer, and Bruce Molnia. Dean Tyler is first alternate in the case of a vacancy. Current members remaining on the Board are Terry Baker, Leo Braconnier, Donna Haacke, Tom Loveland, Ron Parsons, and Tim Smith.



Dr. Floyd Sabins, recipient of the 1983 William T. Pecora Award, shares the podium with Mrs. Wyn Pecora, a special guest at the Symposium.

PECORA VIII EXPLORED FUTURE OF LAND SATELLITE PROGRAMS

Pecora VIII, "Satellite Land Remote Sensing Advancements for the Eighties," provided a new emphasis for attendees, moving from a primary focus on remote sensing applications to an overview of U.S. and foreign government plans for land satellite programs and an intriguing look at the private sector's aspirations in the satellite business.

The professional program included a number of papers on applications of meteorological data and various Space Shuttle systems, as well as some detailed studies of Landsat 4 results, with significant emphasis on Thematic Mapper.

A delegation from Le Systeme Probatoire d'Observation de la terre (SPOT), the French land satellite system, presented several sessions that included mission objectives, technical characteristics of the system, payload programming and acquisition schemes, and worldwide data distribution plans.

"The Advanced Earth Resources Observations Satellite (AEROS): A Private Sector Remote Sensing Space System," a paper presented by N.H. MacLeod, from the company now called Space America, a merger of three private companies, indicated that "AEROS-A, planned for launch in 1986, will be the first of a series of increasingly comprehensive, operational Earth observations lasting into the 1990's."

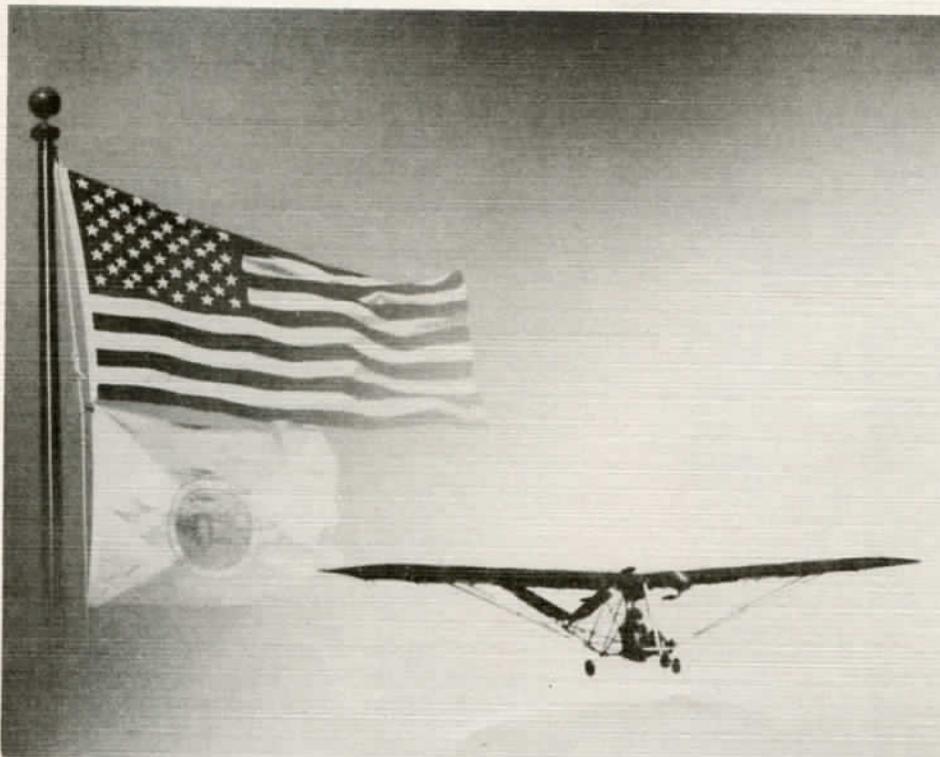
The Communications Satellite Corporation (COMSAT) speaker failed to appear. No reasons were given for the company's cancellation of its presentation.

A very candid and informative report on the Source Evaluation Board for Civil Space Remote Sensing, U.S. Department of Commerce, was given by Mr. Raymond Kammer, Jr., Chairman of the Board.

A highlight of the symposium was the presentation of the William T. Pecora Award to Dr. Floyd Sabins, Senior Research Associate, Chevron Oil Company. The Pecora Award is presented annually in recognition of outstanding contributions of individuals or groups toward the understanding of the Earth by means of remote sensing, and is sponsored jointly by the United States Department of the Interior and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

Senator Larry Pressler, scheduled to be the Awards Banquet keynote speaker, was unable to attend because of a crucial farm vote in the Senate. In his absence, a NASA film of the last Space Shuttle Mission was shown.

More than 300 scientists from 12 nations attended Pecora VIII, the first Pecora symposium that was not sponsored by a professional society. Sponsors of the 1983 meeting were NASA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the United States Geological Survey (USGS).



Tom Holm's photo, above, won first place in the employee's Air Show photo contest. Other winners were Judy Norton, Bryan Bailey, and Max Borchardt.

EDC CELEBRATES "A DECADE OF DISCOVERY"

More than 8,000 people came to the EROS Data Center (EDC) on Saturday, September 24, to help celebrate the 10th anniversary of the dedication of the facility at a spectacular air show and an unprecedented walk-through tour of the Center's photographic laboratory and computer complex. The day's festivities followed a week of educational activities and more than a year of preparation.

The Sioux Falls Development Foundation (SFDF), members of which spearheaded the 1970's fund drives that made the existence of EDC possible, was also the motivator of the 10th anniversary celebration.

Dr. Donn Fahrendorf, who became chairman of the anniversary committee, pointed out that many Sioux Falls area natives remain unacquainted with the work of the Data Center. He also noted, "Many residents who moved into this region during the past 10 years have no idea how hard our business, civic, and Congressional leaders worked during the early seventies to have the EROS Data Center located in South Dakota. We are proud of the Center's national and international achievements throughout its first decade, and we feel that this is an appropriate time to recognize EROS with a week of educational activities and a day of fun and festivities at the Center."

A preliminary planning meeting in July of 1982 was the forerunner of monthly, and then weekly, committee meetings to make the extensive

logistics decisions necessary for an event of the scope of "EROS Week: A Decade of Discovery." The 13-member committee was made up of SFDF members, members of the local business and academic community, and of EDC staff.

Major projects accomplished to tell the story of "A Decade of Discovery" included the production of a new multi-media show (also available on video tape), the development of a junior high through high school level hands-on educational exercise, the construction of a 20-foot by 20-foot major exhibit and seven smaller exhibits, and the renovating of the EDC visitor's lobby with the addition of several informational audio-visual presentations.

Volunteers from EDC spoke and showed the new slide presentation to several hundred members of local service clubs. More than 6,000 students participated in the workshop exercise. The large free-standing exhibit was in the Empire Mall during the entire week, and the seven smaller exhibits were placed in the lobbies of local banks.

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During the past 12 years, EDCEA has evolved into a large organization with structured committees and many projects, but the mission is still to plan and provide social activities and service opportunities for EDC employees and their families. Every employee is considered to be a member of EDCEA and

is encouraged to participate in all EDCEA activities and to serve on committees and hold offices. Committee members, area representatives, and officers will be happy to answer any questions about the organization and its activities. New ideas and suggestions are always welcome.

The major social function of EDCEA is still the annual Christmas party. In order to pay for a major portion of the employee's dinners, hire a dance band, and buy a number of the door prizes and festive decorations, ongoing fundraising events are held. A major fundraising activity was the sale of EDCEA T-shirts, sweatshirts, jackets, and caps.

EDCEA also sends plants to employees or their spouses when hospitalized or homebound with a serious, lengthy illness, and sends cards for other occasions.

This year EDCEA also sponsored a roller skating party, a spring picnic, assisted at the 10th Anniversary picnic, obtained special racquetball club membership rates, a special deal on health club memberships, and discount prices at some business places. All organized or structured sports leagues and recreational or cultural activities that are called EDC activities are organized under the structure of EDCEA.

In addition to arranging social and recreational activities for employees, the EDCEA provides opportunities for its members to participate in community service and charitable projects. The most recent was the coordination of the "Friendship Tree" project which raised \$1,400 in employee contributions to the Food Pantry and collected a large amount of food, clothing, and toys for distribution to needy families.

VANPOOLING ASSOCIATION

The EROS Vanpooling Association has accepted a bid from Julson Motors, Flandreau, for the purchase of four 1984-model 15-passenger Dodge vans, to be delivered by March 1, to replace four of the current vans.

Tim Smith, President of the Association, said that a no-interest loan for 77.74 per cent of the purchase price of the vans was obtained through a state program. He also said that a cost breakdown of 1981 and 1983 figures and a projection of 1984 costs indicated that the monthly \$36.00 rate will not increase with the purchase of the new vans if they operate near capacity.

Currently, 87 paying passengers ride the vans, which have a total carrying capacity of 98. Monthly operating costs, with the four new vans, are estimated to be approximately \$3,173.59. Therefore, 89 paying passengers are needed in order to break even.

EMPLOYEE NEWS

(Editor's note: The Employee News column will introduce new employees and acknowledge employee awards and commendations in each issue. This edition includes new employees and awards from the beginning of this fiscal year, October 1, 1983.)

WELCOME ABOARD

Carol Van Winkle works in the USGS EDC Administrative Office where her responsibilities include personnel and cost accounting. She transferred to EDC from USGS Water Resources Division in Lawrence, Kansas, where she had lived 19 years. She has a son, Mark, who with his wife, Julie, and their son, Justin, 7, lives in Baker, Oregon, and three daughters, Beth, Dallas, Texas, Charise and her husband, Jerry Olson, Hugoton, Kansas, who are expecting their first baby, and Deborah, Lawrence. Carol enjoys downhill skiing and sewing.

Thomas Bodoh, formerly Senior Systems Programmer for Younkers Department Stores, headquartered in Des Moines, Iowa, is a recent employee in Computer Services Branch, Software Development. Tom's hometown is Menomonie, Wisconsin. His wife, Deb, is a programmer-analyst at Midland National Life. The Bodohs like to bowl and he is a short wave radio enthusiast.

Janice S. Nelson, an illustrator in the Technical Information Section, was employed at the Sanders Printing Company in Garretson for the past two years. She and her husband, Ron, restored and remodeled their 100-year-old farm house, four miles east of EDC. They have a son, Evan, 13 months old. Ron farms with his father and brother.

Jerry Smith, who worked at EDC from 1974 until 1980 when he went to Baltimore, Maryland, with Technicolor Government Services, Inc., transferred back to CSB's Software Development in October. Jerry and his wife, Gail, are the parents of Sarah, 6, Aaron, 5, Anna, 3, and Elizabeth, 1. Books and music are important to the family. Jerry said that they enjoyed living in the Baltimore area, but they're happy to be back near family and friends. He grew up at Hazel and she is from Cresbard.

Mary Richards recently completed her thesis for a master's degree in geography at the University of Massachusetts where she also worked in the image processing laboratory. She is working on the Image Mapping Project in Technique Development. Mary's husband, Buddy, is a certified high school science teacher with a specialty in natural resource studies. They are anxiously awaiting Spring so they can ride the bike trails, and they enjoy cross country skiing. Mary likes to cook and knit.

John La Vergne, also a newcomer to Software Development, is a recent graduate of the University of South Dakota. A serious racquetball accident

this year has made it impossible for John to participate in his favorite activities of tennis, bowling, jogging, and racquetball. Until he is able to resume those sports, he is keeping busy getting settled in his new apartment and concentrating on other hobbies including woodworking, automotive interests, and music.

Bruce Molnia, Deputy Chief of Data Production and Distribution, holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees and a Ph.D. in geology, with a specialty in marine geology. Bruce is featured elsewhere in this issue.

Ramona Stansell, who lives in Dell Rapids, is a new Center Services Technician. She has returned to EDC where she was formerly employed in Dissemination for four years. She has three grown children, Sheryl, Michael, and Bonnie, and three young grandsons, all of Dell Rapids. Mona's childhood was spent at the Palisades, which was her father's homestead before it became a State Park. She likes to cook and bake for her family.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

Dean Tyler was recognized for his significant contribution to geometric registration activities.

Oliver Miller was recognized for his responsive and cooperative manner in performing his duties of staging film for the photographic laboratory.

Janice M. Nelson was recognized for her efforts in supporting the Software Development Section during the absence of a permanent secretary, while fully carrying out her regular duties.

Bonnie Knuteson and Lloyd Christian were recognized for their job performance and their attitudes toward their work and their positive responses to their transfers to the photographic laboratory.

Mary Chmela was recognized for her positive and helpful attitude in performing her duties and increased responsibilities as the Software Development Section expanded.

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Mark Erickson was commended for his leadership qualities which have guided the operations of the Design and Fabrication Section and contributed to the success of the group.

EXCELLENCE OF SERVICE AWARDS

David Eitrem, Russell Hanken, and Kelvin Tellinghuisen were cited for the contribution of the Design and Fabrication Section to Data Center production activities and for their technical expertise in bring about major changes and improvements.

NEW DEPUTY BRANCH CHIEF

Bruce F. Molnia, new Deputy Chief of Data Production and Distribution brings to EDC an exceptionally interesting background of experience. Bruce is a geological oceanographer, marine geologist, photographer, author, educator, television science

editor, and consultant.

He has accomplished a number of marine geology studies using as his basic tools, the navigational maps of such famed adventurers as Captain Cook, the British mariner and explorer who lived from 1728-1779, and the Comte de La Perouse, French explorer of the Pacific Ocean in the late 1700's. He traveled to the museums of Europe and the National Archives of the United States, obtained original manuscript maps, transformed them to comparable USGS map scales and projections, and compared them to recent aerial photographs, satellite images, and contemporary maps. He determined the history of past changes, to predict probable future changes in remote coastal areas.

He is the author of more than 75 scientific publications, 13 slide programs with teaching manuals, an 800-page technical book, *Glacial-Marine Sedimentation*, and a beautifully illustrated book with many of his own spectacular photographs, *Alaska's Glaciers*.

His work experience has included collecting gravity and seismic data on cruises to Antarctica and around the world; participation as a National Science Foundation Fellow in the study of active glacial processes in Alaska; science editor for the South Carolina Public Television Network; geological oceanographer for the Bureau of Land Management; marine geologist at the USGS Menlo Park facility, and teaching positions at Amherst, Mt. Holyoke, University of South Carolina, Cornell University, and Duke University. He has traveled to Alaska more than 100 times to investigate offshore and on-shore geological and geophysical problems. Before returning to the USGS to come to EDC, he was vice president of MESA, a private consulting firm of geological and geophysical experts involved in evaluation of offshore sites for petroleum platforms, pipelines, and other energy and mineral related structures.

Bruce's hobbies and interests are as diverse as his professional background. An avid photographer, he has more than 60,000 photographs in his collection. He enjoys gourmet cooking and running—he totaled 1,285 miles last year.

Bruce and his wife, Mary, a computer programmer-analyst, have two little boys, Michael, 2½, and Benji, four months.

Stop over at Data Production and meet Bruce. You'll like him.

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