



U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

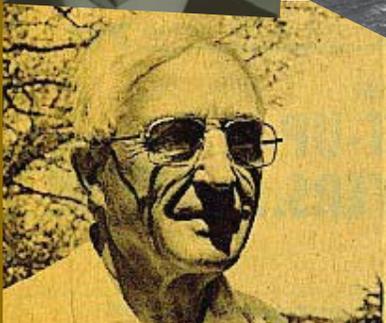
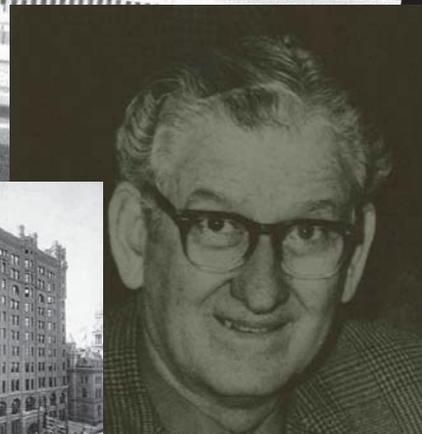
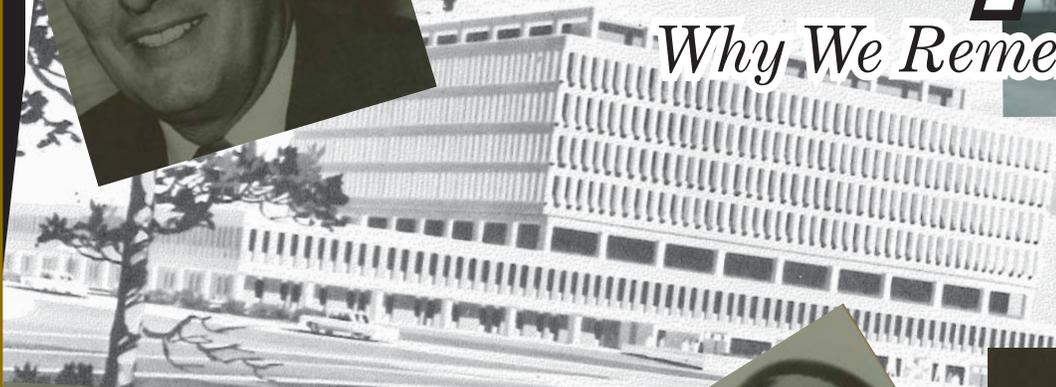
# Inside Region 3

June 2011



# History

*Why We Remember*



Special Edition

# what's inside

## Features



### Not Just Nostalgia/ 3

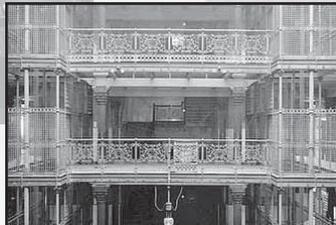
The RD shares his thoughts on Service history.  
By Tom Melius



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Regional Director photo gallery features leaders since 1940. Plus early conservation depicted with photos courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society.

By External Affairs



### Architectural Gems/ 8

Historical account of the Midwest Regional Offices over the years.

By Valerie Rose Redmond

#### On the Cover:

Group photo: Region 3 attendees at a 1941 Regional Conference. Included in the photo are Dr. Green of the Upper Mississippi River; Mr. J. Clark Salyer - long time chief of refugees in Washington DC and considered the father of the NWRs. Photo courtesy of Ed Crozier.



National, Plymouth, and Metropolitan buildings. Photos courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society.

Regional Directors and Fort Snelling. Service photos.

Lower left: Melvyn "Mugs" Townsend in the 70s. Photo courtesy of the family.



### Of Historical Significance: Service Archival Papers/ 12

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By Valerie Rose Redmond

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By Tom Worthington

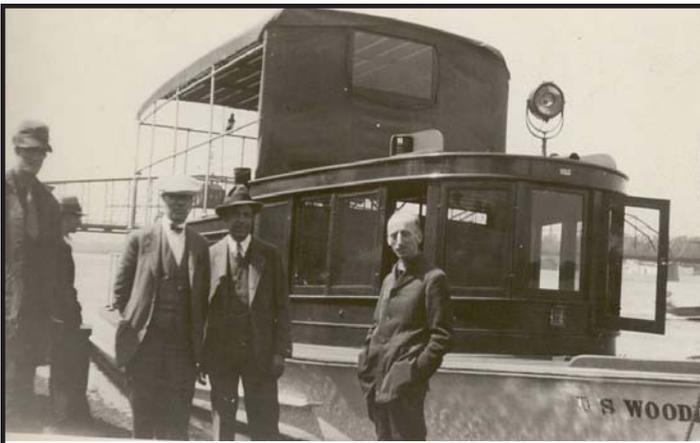
National, Plymouth, and Metropolitan buildings. Photos courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society. Regional Directors and Fort Snelling. Service photos.

## More than Just Nostalgia

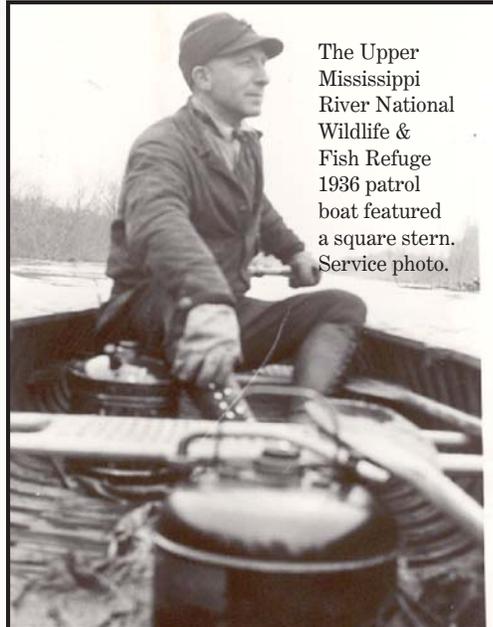
The Midwest Regional Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has now made its transition to its new Bloomington location. These types of moves are nothing new to us. It's not the first time we've moved and it will not be the last. I want to thank everyone who worked on this move. You've all done a wonderful job in helping us to make this transition.

On the cusp of such a monumental event, however, it is only natural to revisit where we've come from. That's exactly what we are doing with this month's "History Special Edition of Inside Region 3."

Below: The first floating office for the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife & Fish Refuge was called The US Woodduck, circa 1925. Service photo.

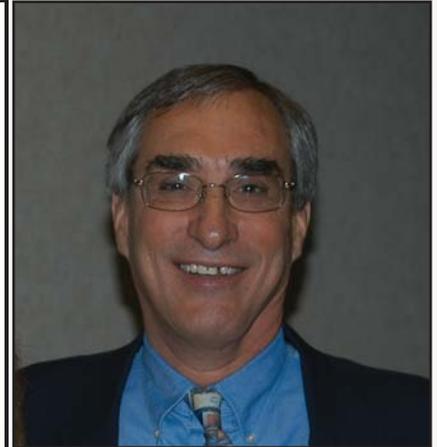


The mode of operation on the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife & Fish Refuge in 1928. Note the refuge was part of the US Biological Survey. Service photo.



The regional staff here has been preparing for months for this move. Filtering through countless documents from days gone by is

an activity that is sure to evoke many types of emotions, including nostalgia. But history is more than nostalgia. It's a reminder of how far we've come. It's a record of what we did, how and where we did it, and why. Spanish American philosopher George Santayana said, "Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it." That said, I encourage you to reconsider



destroying or throwing out dated historically significant documentation and artifacts that may be in your possession. Instead, consider sending them to our National Conservation Training Center for preservation.

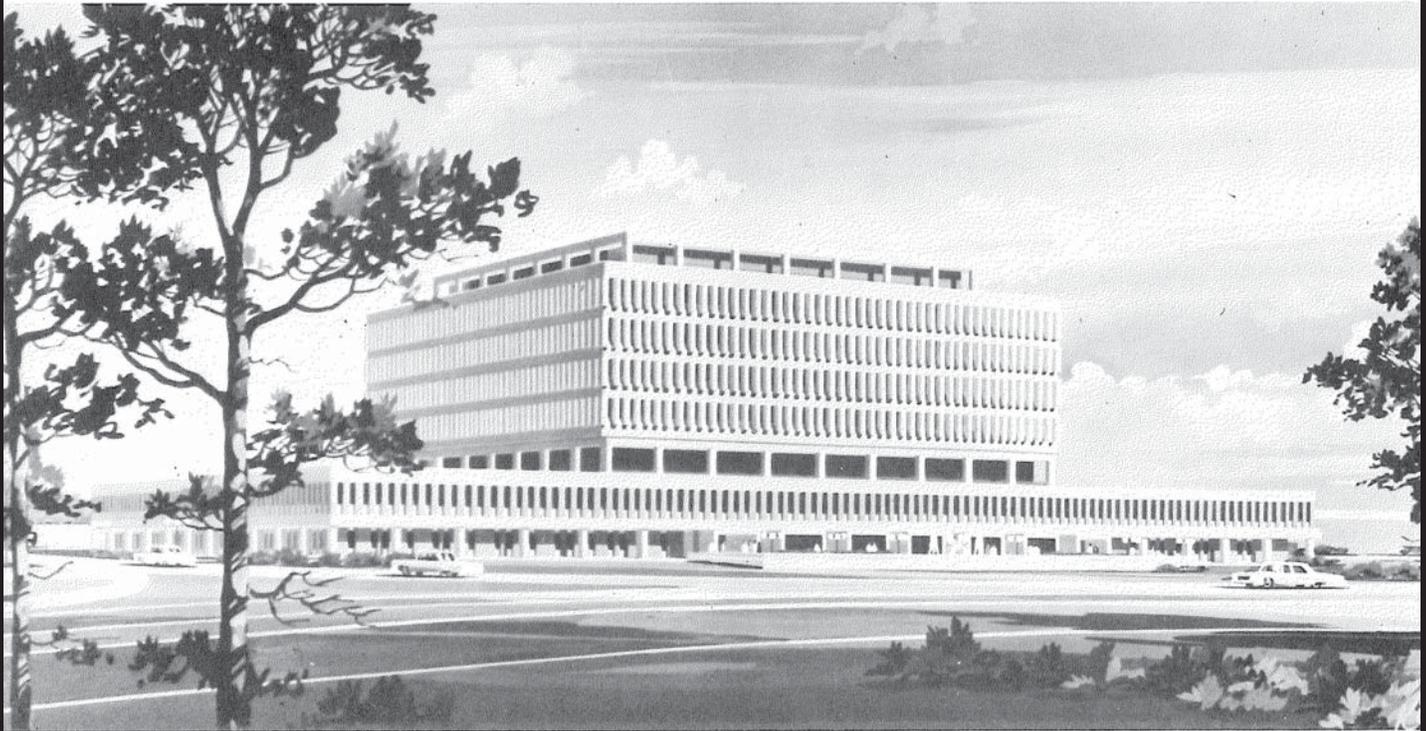
Generations have come and gone, yet the mission, remains the same. The mission and the message is one that we can carry forward and pass on to the generations that come after us. These actions will enable future conservationists to piece together the puzzle more efficiently and accurately, so that the Service can continue to be on the leading edge of conservation.

For regional employees who will be unpacking this week, I encourage you to be careful with lifting and moving boxes. I remind you also that we are planning emergency drills so that you will know how to evacuate the building in case of emergency.

Thank you for your efforts and I am looking forward to forging ahead from Bloomington into a new frontier.

--Tom Melius  
Midwest Regional Director,  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

# FORT SNELLING FEDERAL BUILDING



*Dedication*



*June 9, 1969*

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**OFFICIAL DEDICATION — THE NEW FORT SNELLING FEDERAL BUILDING**

JUNE 9, 1969

Twin Cities, Minnesota 55111

**PROGRAM**

10:00 a.m.

CONCERT and EXHIBITION

451st Army Band, Fort Snelling, Minnesota and Hennepin County Sheriff's Drum and Bugle Corps

10:45 a.m.

Presentation of Colors — 3rd Infantry Colonial Color Guard

Invocation . . . . . REV. DR. PAUL L. GRAF  
Director, Lutheran Social Service Foundation of Minnesota

Introduction of Platform Guests . . . JACK M. PROVO  
Acting Chairman, Board of County Commissioners, Hennepin County

Welcome to State . . . . . HON. HAROLD LeVANDER Governor of Minnesota

Welcome to City . . . . . HON. ARTHUR NAFTALIN Mayor of Minneapolis  
HON. THOMAS R. BYRNE Mayor of St. Paul

Remarks and Presentation . . . HON. ROBERT L. KUNZIG  
Administrator, General Services Administration

Dedicatory Address . . . . . HON. CLARK M. MacGREGOR  
Representative, Third District, Minnesota

Benediction . . . . . MOST REV. LEONARD P. COWLEY, D.D.  
Pastor, Basilica of St. Mary

**OPEN HOUSE**

Arranged by JOHN WENN, Jr.  
Chairman, Twin Cities Federal Executive Board  
(Open House will continue until 2:00 p.m.)

## DEDICATION

# NEW FORT SNELLING FEDERAL BUILDING

Today, June 9, 1969, we are dedicating the new Fort Snelling Federal Building. This ceremony serves to dramatize another milestone of progress for our Twin Cities community.

The Fort Snelling Federal Building was erected under the auspices of the General Services Administration at a total cost of \$14,054,807. It consists of seven stories, plus basement, and is 121 feet high. There are approximately 591,700 gross square feet of floor space within its walls. It will house over 2,000 Government employees, representing eight separate Federal agencies.

It is fitting that the pleasing architectural lines of this distinguished structure conveys an impression of comforting strength, permanence and dependability, qualities that were so highly prized by the strong and courageous pioneers who founded the original Fort Snelling.

The exteriors of the ground and first floors are faced with a combination of brown brick and grey granite. The exteriors of the upper floors and the exposed building support columns are faced with grey granite. The first floor overhangs the ground floor to provide a sheltered promenade around the entire building.

The main entrance is on the south side at first

floor level. Service entrances are on the west side at ground level. Three loading docks are located inside for protection from the weather. Two of the docks have adjustable-level ramps.

The ground floor and first floor lobbies have terrazzo floors and travertine marble walls. Upper floor lobbies have travertine marble tiled floors and plastered walls. Recessed fluorescent lighting is provided throughout the building. Acoustical ceiling tile is used for noise reduction. Movable, metal partitioning is used to divide office space.

The air distribution and automatic temperature control system provide a comfortable environment. Conditioned air is supplied by two 660-ton centralized, centrifugal refrigeration units for cooling, and three boilers having a total capacity of 26,400,000 BTU's per hour for heating. Air is circulated through ceiling grilles and peripheral induction units.

Six public passenger elevators, one freight elevator, and one dumbwaiter provide vertical transportation within the building.

A large parking area is located approximately 370 feet south of the main entrance to the building. This area will accommodate approx-

imately 1,293 vehicles, is well-lighted at night, and will be used by both employees and visitors. A walkway, bordered by planter boxes and decorative lights, extends from the building to the parking area.

Special consideration has been given to handicapped persons. No ramps or stairs need be negotiated as the entrance is level with the sidewalk and the entire building is served by elevators. Drinking fountains have been installed so they can be reached from wheelchair height, and special fixtures for the handicapped have been installed in certain restrooms throughout the building.

The new Federal Building permits the Federal Government to consolidate many agencies in a single location in one of the most modern buildings in this part of the country. Over a period of years, the rental savings to the Government will be substantial. The many benefits and advantages that will be realized by the Federal Government and by this community through the years ahead as a result of this new Federal Building will be a continuing tribute to the dedicated people whose foresight, vision and tireless efforts made it possible.

## ...OLD FORT SNELLING...

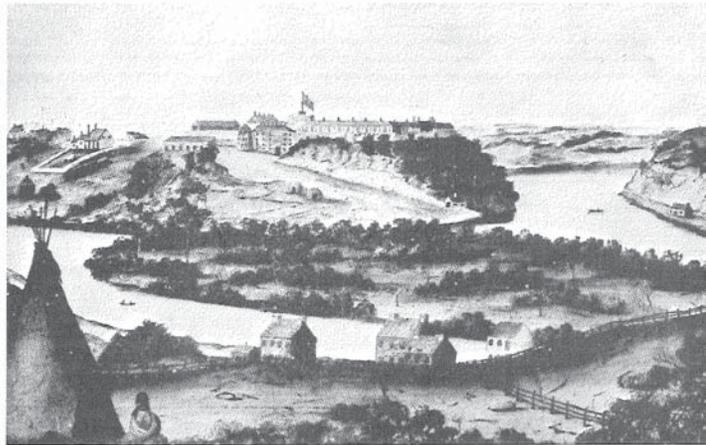


Photo by courtesy of Hennepin County Historical Society

### OLD FORT SNELLING, 1819-1858

The establishment of this frontier fortress in 1819 at the junction of the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers radically changed the course of history in the Upper Mississippi Valley. It extended the authority of the young American nation over the region for the first time, paved

the way for white settlement and set in motion trends which eventually transformed a vast Indian territory into a state.

As a military outpost on the remote American frontier, Fort Snelling was an island of civilization from which developed the settlement of Minnesota and much of the Northwest. First named Fort St. Anthony, the post was re-

named Fort Snelling in 1825, in recognition of the outstanding work of its commander and builder, Colonel Josiah Snelling. Four buildings of the original fort—the hexagonal tower, round tower, officers' quarters and commandant's house—remain. Archaeological explorations have unearthed foundations of the other buildings and the original wall.

# Midwest Regional Leadership Over the Years



BURNIE MAUREK  
1940 - 1944



OSCAR H. JOHNSON  
1944 - 1946



DANIEL JANZEN  
1946 - 1957



ROBERT W. BURWELL  
1957 -1971



TRAVIS S. ROBERTS  
1971 -1973



JACK HEMPHILL  
1973 -1978

## Early Conservation



Above: Planting memorial tree across Cedar Street from the Minnesota Historical Society building, dedicated to the sixth Annual Convention of the American Legion held in St. Paul; Governor Theodore Christianson on platform (1924). Photograph courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society.



Above: The survey plane with pilot Mr. Day in 1945 prepares for an Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge survey. Service photo.

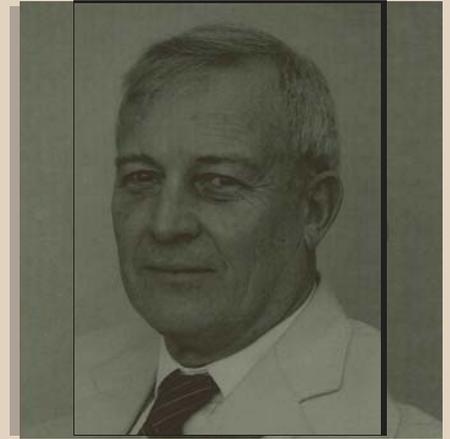
# Midwest Regional Leadership Over the Years



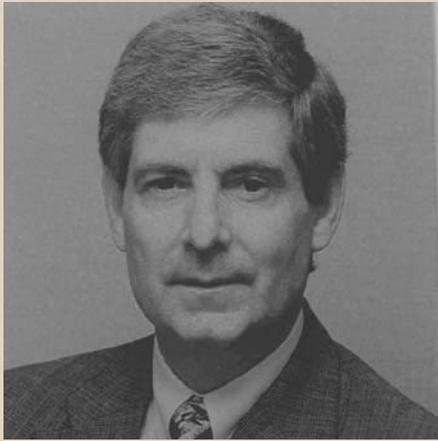
HARVEY K. NELSON  
1979 -1987



JAMES C. GRITMAN  
1987 -1992



SAM MARLER  
1992 -1995



WILLIAM HARTWIG  
1995 -2003



ROBYN THORSON  
2003 - 2008



TOM MELIUS  
2008 - Present

## Early Conservation



Above: The Works Projects Administration [circa 1935-43] provided these men a job of posting the signs on the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife & Fish Refuge. Service photo.



Above: Biological aid Harold Hicks with his muskrat catch in 1927. Service photo.

# Architectural Gems

As winter has made way for spring, a famous quotation comes to mind. “Nothing is permanent but change.” Historically, the regional offices of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have held closely to this doctrine. The Midwest’s headquarters has always been located in Minneapolis, Minn., but the regional office has donned

many different faces and locations over the years. From the one time tallest skyscraper in Minneapolis, to a building that sounds more like a home for a swarm of bees, to another structure whose façade changed almost as frequently as the regional offices.

In the past 70 years, the Midwest Regional Office has moved five times into what turns out to be some of the Twin Cities most unique and iconic architectural treasures. Most are still standing, some are not.

*--Valerie Rose Redmond  
External Affairs*



Above: Minneapolis from the top of the Northwestern Guaranty Loan Building (Metropolitan Building), showing the old Exposition Building (1906). Photos courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society.

# Architectural Gems



Northwestern Loan  
Building, N.Y.C.

The Metropolitan Building (formerly Northwestern Guaranty Loan Building). Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society.

# Architectural Gems

## National Building 1940

In 1941, the first home of the Midwest Regional Office was the National Building, located at 527-529 Second Avenue on the south side of Minneapolis. At the time, there were five regions in the Service. The Midwest Region, headed up by Regional Director Burnie Maurek, managed 10 states (North Dakota, Nebraska, South Dakota, Minnesota, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Missouri and Iowa). Construction on the Studebaker, later named the National Building took place in 1913. Architects employed what is referred to as the Chicago School style of architecture. Technological advances such as the advent of the safety elevator in 1853 by Elisha Otis, led to architecturally higher thinking. This era gave birth to the modern skyscraper and the use of steel and large window spaces for aesthetical purposes. The National Building was later home to the Minnesota State Bar Association, but was demolished shortly thereafter. The Opus Towers now stand in its place.



## Plymouth Building 1943

The Midwest's next regional office home was in the Plymouth Building, which it moved to in 1943. The building located at Hennepin Avenue and Sixth Street in downtown Minneapolis boasted the beaux-arts style of architecture. Beaux-Arts, a style that was taught at the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris, features elaborate ornamentation. Architects used terra cotta, cornice, and beautiful marble throughout the building. Much to the dismay of architects decades later, however, it lost its ornamentation in a renovation in 1936. The face of the building was originally designed with a gothic style and was changed to beaux-arts in 1910. The building, still standing, also features something that is unusual for office buildings today, windows that actually open.

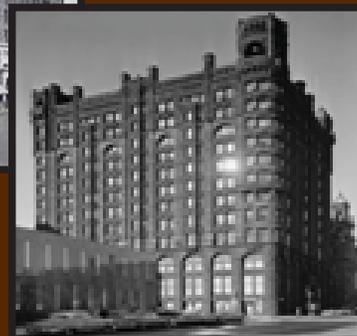


## Metropolitan Building 1947 - 1948

The Metropolitan Building was the regional office's next home. Service employees were tenants in 1947 and 1948. It was for a time the tallest building in Minneapolis. Located at 308 Second Avenue South, it stood 258 feet tall, with 12 stories, and was made of green granite and red, Lake Superior sandstone. The Metropolitan was the tallest building from 1890-1895. It also featured a popular rooftop garden and restaurant, as well as small observation towers at each of the rooftop corners.

Originally known as the Northwestern Guaranty Loan Building, construction for the building began in 1888. It was designed by Architect E. Townsend Mix. Mix's insightful design used materials to maximize efficiency. His crowning achievement featured an atrium skylight and transparent flooring, both of which made ample use of the sun for safe lighting. (The building, however, was eventually wired for electricity.) While Mix's design was out of necessity as electrical lights were not common, generations later, sustainable, environmentally conscious architects still take note.

The Metropolitan changed hands several times before it was purchased by Metropolitan Life Insurance Company in 1905, where it garnered its name. The Service was there until 1948, but like the National, this building too was razed in 1961.



# Architectural Gems

## Buzza Building 1949 - 1969

Prior to 1949, the Service was resident in office buildings for relatively short periods of time. It stayed in its next home, however, for twenty years.

The Buzza building at 1006 West Lake Street in Uptown was built in 1907. It was named after George Buzza, a printing and greeting card business mogul after he acquired it in 1923. Honeywell bought the building in the 1940s. The Service became tenants in 1949. In 1971, Minneapolis Public Schools purchased it, and it eventually became the Lehman Adult Learning Center. Dominion Development reportedly acquired it from Minneapolis Public Schools this year. Dominion, emerging as the winner in what became a bidding war, has intent to build more apartments in the area.

An impressive building in its own right, the Buzza Building was apparently known for its charming

good looks on many levels. "I worked in the Buzza Building March 1958 to June 1968 for the Department of the Army," says recent Service retiree Sharon Vassar. "I remember one of my bosses telling me that the FWS budget was rarely cut because they were an environmental agency, and that they mostly hired young, attractive people!"

The Department of the Army, was only one of many military offices in the building. In fact, it was known to many as the Little Pentagon because there were so many military offices present in the building.

## BHW Federal Building 1969 - 2011

The lead quotation on change, attributed to Greek philosopher, Heraclitus, is particularly apt on what is the eve of another big move for the Midwest's Regional Office. In 1969, the Service moved into the Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building. The move takes place due to a summer 2011 renovation of its current location, the Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building in

Fort Snelling, Minn. Built in 1969 at a cost of \$14,054,807, BHW Federal Building, has seven stories a basement and is 121 feet tall. The building allowed the federal government to consolidate various agencies into one location.

## Norman Pointe II Building 2011

On July 2, 2010, GSA awarded a five year lease for the regional office's new home, Norman Pointe II office building, located at 5600 W. American Boulevard in Bloomington, Minn. The Norman Pointe Office is 10 stories high, features a fitness center. The building is also LEED core and shell certified.

The regional office is poised to forge ahead into new territory over Memorial Day Weekend 2011.

It's not the first time the Midwest Regional Office has moved. It is the consensus of many that we will more than likely move again. But in the words of fairly recent Service retiree John Leonard, "It's not where you move, it's what you do."

--Valerie Rose Redmond  
*External Affairs*



Buzza Interior Office (Top Left); Buzza Exterior (Bottom Left). Photos courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society. Above: Fort Snelling. Right: Norman Pointe II. Service photos.

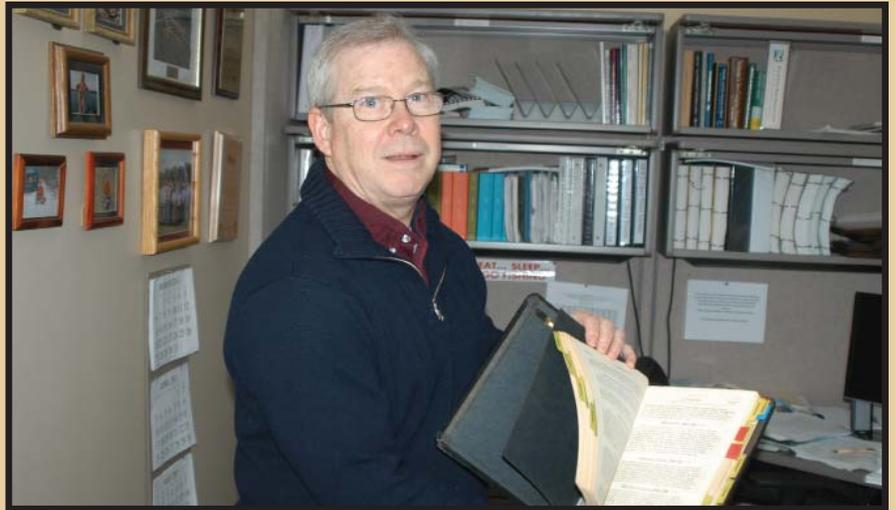
# Of Historical Significance: Service Archival Papers

The Midwest Region of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has a rich history dating back into the forties. As Dickens wrote, more than a century before, “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times...” It was an era of telephone exchanges, toy slinkies, the Lindy Hop, “Casablanca”, “It’s a Wonderful Life” and Hitchcock’s “Notorius.” It also marks the tragedy of the Arizona, the United States’ subsequent engagement in the second World War, and a time when conservation efforts extended to staples like food.

The Service, however, was in full swing during all of that. The recent discovery of a collection of publications by Deputy Regional Director Charlie Wooley and Deputy Refuge Chief Tom Worthington documents the Service’s activities over the years and highlights the Midwest Region’s historically significant contribution to the continuing story of the Service.

The May 2011 regional office move was the impetus for the discovery. In preparation for the move, Wooley found several of the regional telephone directories and gave them to Worthington.

Below: Refuges Deputy Chief Tom Worthington holds up a Service. Manual of Operations from the 1940’s. Service photo.



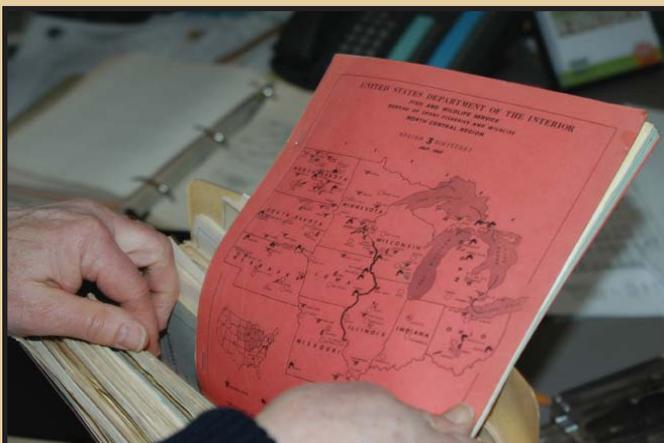
Worthington in turn contacted Museum Curator, Jeanne M. Harold at the Service’s National Conservation and Training Center, who was nothing short of absolutely thrilled at the prospect of the find. “We at the NCTC museum/archives are quite excited about receiving a collection of documents and photographs pertaining to the history of Region 3 headquarters and personnel,” Harold says. “This sort of information is useful in publications about the history of the Service, and the past personnel who shaped our past and influenced our present.

There is very little of this type of documentary information in the archives, and we welcome it into our collection with open arms!”

Both Worthington and Fisheries’ Bob Adair who is the program manager for the Sea Lamprey Management Program, examined the documents with keen interest during External Affairs photographing session. “If you had been working in the regional office in 1940,” Worthington beams, “this would be your link to the entire organization.”

Adair concurs. “This stuff is just fascinating...It shows people who were at refuges and what facilities,” he observes, pouring through the documents. “That’s exactly what our old sea lamprey stuff looks like. We have pictures of the old Hammond Bay Biological Station. It’s still fully in operation.”

Adair further reflects on the work of Vernon C. Applegate (research on selective sea lamprey larvicide). “There’s stuff in here about the precursor to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission starting in the mid 40’s when sea lamprey populations were taking off... and discussions about what was going to happen and who would be involved.. and all the original



Above: Region 3 Directory. Service photo.

# Of Historical Significance: Service Archival Papers

research,” Adair says. “I have the original files of Applegate who was the guy who went through all of those chemicals to find the one that selectively killed sea lampreys... in the forties and fifties. Which in itself is amazing...”

In awe of the archival documents, both expressed their concern on whether or not other documents like these are being preserved by employees or simply being thrown out by those who might not be as sensitive to their historical significance.

In the forties the regional office for the Midwest Region was housed in three different buildings

## *Of Historical Interest*

Also expressing concern about preserving history is retiree Ed Crozier who worked in the Buzza building and was the very first refuge manager at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Only his concerns extend a bit further into the personal realm: The loss of the legacy of one’s life work.

“Is anyone in the Service still doing oral histories with former employees?” he wonders. “Most of my co-workers from that era are deceased. I was about 10 - 15 years younger than the other guys on the RO refuge staff.” He says the Service should talk to people like him to glean information from their stories, while it still can.

The Service is still doing oral histories with former employees. The Midwest Region the Heritage Committee representative is Greg Dehmer of Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge.

not the only thing that changed over the years.

Today, the Midwest Region manages the fish, wildlife and natural resources across an eight state area. But that was not always the case. According to historical documents currently in the possession of Worthington, the number of states in the region has altered the regional map significantly. Some of the states that the region used to have now belong to other regions. Others used to belong in other regions, but now belong to the Midwest.

In 1949, North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska were in the regional make-up. “We didn’t have Ohio originally,” Worthington reflects, “that was added in 1951. Then we lost those states in 1973 and then those two came back to where we currently are.” Worthington says the other regions also changed. “I know that there were several changes in 1951 as the Service grew. Virginia, for example, changed from Region 5 to Region 4 back to Region 5 a couple of times. The Denver Regional Office came into be in 1973,” he says. “There didn’t use to be a Denver regional office. When they formed Region 6 they changed a lot of the regional boundaries.”

--Valerie Rose Redmond  
*External Affairs*

Below: Fisheries’ Bob Adair reviews historical documents.  
Service photo.

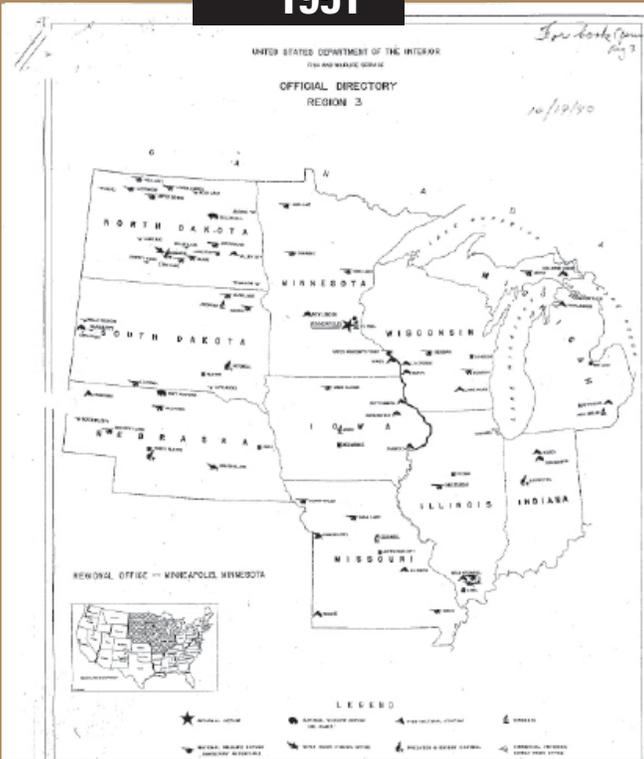


in Minneapolis: the National, the Plymouth and the Metropolitan. The office was later resident in yet another building, the Buzza, before finding a 43-year home at the Bishop Henry Federal Building in Fort Snelling. (See page eight for more on the building transformations.) But the location of the regional office is

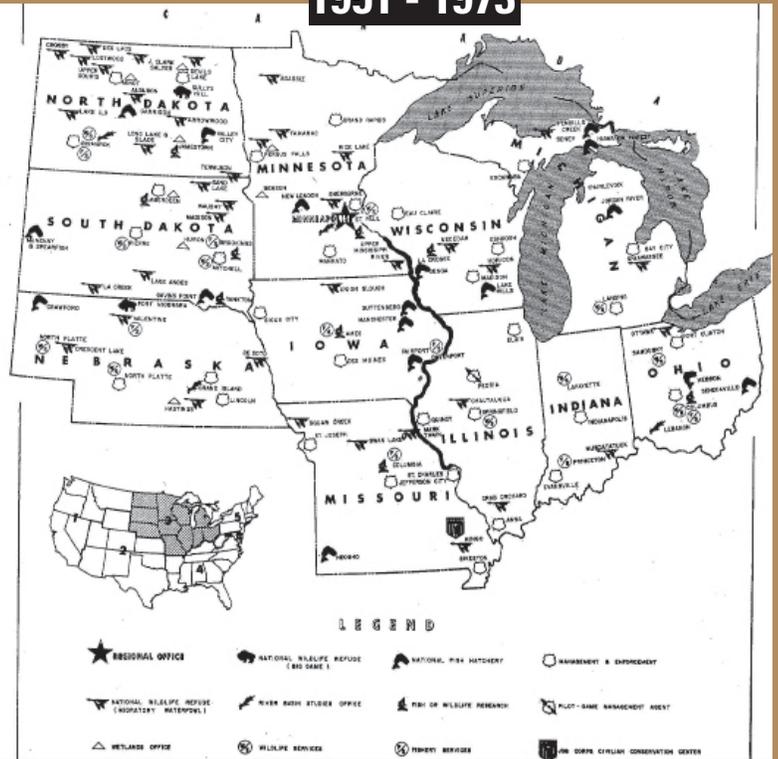


# States of Change

1951



1951 - 1973



## The Region 3 Map Over the Years

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
NORTH CENTRAL REGION  
REGION 3 TERRITORY



1973 - 1980



1980 - 2011

# Move of Historical Proportions



Above: Fort Snelling Regional Office employees prepare for the big move. Service photos.

# A Move of Historical Proportions

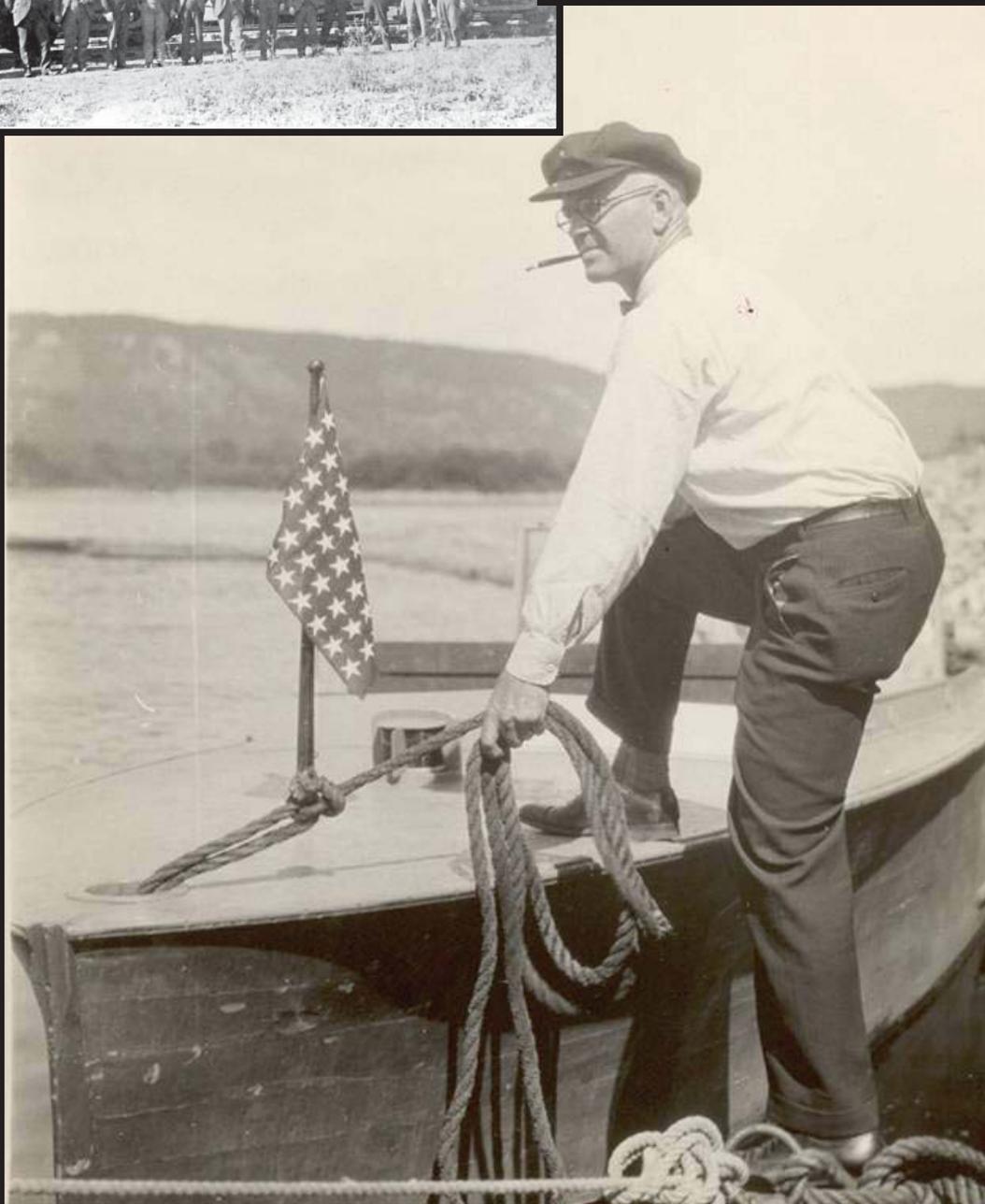
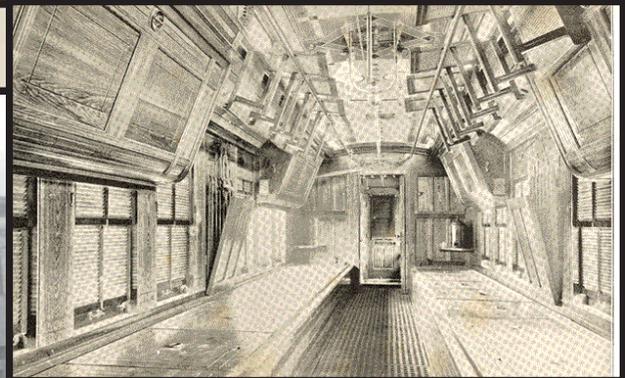


Above: Fort Snelling Regional Office employees prepare for the big move. Service photos.

# Midwest Region History

Below: Neosho NFH: Interior of transportation car showing berths closed, and chairs hung up so that compartments for fish could be opened. Service photo.

Neosho NFH: Fish train. Service photo.



Refuge Superintendent (Refuge Manager) Ray Steele boards the patrol boat, The Widgeon. (Circa 1920s).

# U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service History

Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919) continues to cast a long and profound shadow in American conservation circles, and nowhere more significant than among the men and women of the National Wildlife Refuge System.



Far better is it to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even though checkered by failure... than to rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy nor suffer much, because they live in a gray twilight that knows not victory nor defeat.

*--Theodore Roosevelt*

In any moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing, the next best thing is the wrong thing, and the worst thing you can do is nothing.

*--Theodore Roosevelt*



## U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/>