

***1999 ANNUAL NEWSLETTER  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SNY ISLAND LEVEE DRAINAGE DISTRICT***

What an unusual year we had in 1999 here in the “Sny”. Following a pretty good blast of Old Man Winter in January, our winter turned out to be fairly mild compared to others in the past. Spring started out wet, but all of a sudden the rain stopped. Throughout a significant part of the District it was extremely dry in 1999. It wasn’t until just recently that we have begun to get some badly needed precipitation to begin to restore moisture to the soil that will be critical to next Spring’s planting season. We all continue to look ahead to next year and beyond. What’s in store for us in 2000? Are we all caught up in the Y2K hype? Wait a minute! Before we get too far ahead of ourselves, let’s take a look back over 1999 to reflect on some significant improvements to our District.

***PUMP STATIONS***

Even though we suffered through an incredibly dry 1999, we had high river conditions during most of the year due to the wet weather patterns north of us. High river conditions translate to seep water, and that means we still have to run our pump stations. For as dry as it was, the operation of our pumping stations wasn’t significantly different than most other years. In fact, our pumping operations were pretty much routine throughout 1999. No major problems at any location thanks to the outstanding work of our full time pump station operators, Bryan Chapman at Pump Station 1, Lewis Wells at 3A and “Butch” Sturtevant at Pump Station 4. In addition, a great crew of part time operators at all three locations makes their work easier. Great Job, Guys!

***RIVER LEVEES***

BIG NEWS HERE! In our 1998 newsletter, there was a brief report on a project just getting underway in the East Hannibal area. The Sny had entered into an agreement with Matteson Construction in Burlington, Iowa, to pump sand on the landside slope of our main stem river levee for 1.8 miles north of the Bunge Corporation and for 2.3 miles immediately south of the Norfolk & Southern railroad line. As it turned out, over 180,000 cubic yards of sand was pumped on the river levee in these areas to immeasurably strengthen what were perhaps some of the weakest river levee sections in the District. That project was completed on April 14, 1999, at a cost of about \$570,000.00. Of that cost, about \$175,000.00 was donated by landowners in the area plus over \$50,000.00 in equipment and man-hours was donated by landowners to assist Sny staff in completing the job. Photographs appear later in the newsletter depicting the work in progress.

For the last three years, we have been reporting to you about serious shoreline erosion along a 3 ½ mile stretch of main stem river levee immediately north of Lock & Dam 24 in Reach III. Initially, the Sny completed some emergency repairs to an 800’ section of the levee in the spring of 1997. In 1998, the Rock Island District U.S. Army Corps of

Engineers completed emergency repairs to an additional 3000' of river levee in this area at a cost exceeding \$1,500,000.00. Throughout this time frame, the Commissioners of the Sny were working with the County Boards of Pike, Calhoun and Adams Counties, the Board of the Upper Mississippi, Illinois and Missouri Rivers Associations, the Board of the Lower Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association as well as township officials and representatives of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to put together a combined effort of support to gain funding to complete repairs to the entire 3 ½ mile segment. Through the efforts of Congressman John Shimkus on the House side of Congress and Senator Dick Durbin on the Senate side, funding has been secured to complete the repairs in 2000. The bidding process is complete with the low bid submitted by Luhr Construction at about \$5,200,000.00. It is anticipated that the bid will be awarded yet this month with construction to start next spring. The entire 3½ mile segment of levee will have an underlayment of 2" stone topped with 1200 lb. riprap. Luhr will have one year to complete the project. This has truly been a combined effort by the entire tri state area of Illinois, Missouri and Iowa. The project had the support of Congressmen on both sides of the river from St. Louis, Missouri to Burlington, Iowa, as well as the Senators from both Illinois and Missouri. Upon its successful completion next year, it will be a project that everyone can take pride in.

We are continuing to work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in developing dredge material placement sites along our main stem river levee throughout the District. As has been reported in the past, we have had an ongoing relationship with the Rock Island Corps District with the placement of hydraulically dredged material behind the main stem river levee immediately north and south of Lock & Dam 22. The Sny recently entered into a short-term agreement with the Rock Island District for another dredged material placement site between Cincinnati Landing and the south levee of the Hadley McCraney Diversion Channel in Reach II. If this proves to be a successful project, it could lead to the development of other placement sites along the main stem river levee. These are tremendously beneficial to the Sny since the placement of the sand along our landside slopes greatly strengthens our levees in these areas. We plan to aggressively pursue the development of these sites in the future.

### ***DITCHES/BASINS/CREEK WORK***

For the last few years, we have reported on the miles of ditches that have been cleaned by the staff throughout the year. This year, work has been concentrated mainly on creek channels, the main stem river levee and de-silting basins. All of the Sny's heavy equipment was utilized until mid April on the East Hannibal river levee project. After that, the staff completed about five miles of ditch work as well as channel work in Atlas and McCraney Creeks. Most of the work by our heavy equipment was done in Brown, Brewster, Hack, Johnson and Six Mile basins. Outlet repairs were made, waterways were either cleaned or re-routed to allow silt to be deposited in low areas of the basins and levees worked on. At Six Mile basin in particular, extensive levee work is currently underway. Thus far, about 1.2 miles of the basin's south levee has been re-worked to provide additional flood protection for the village of Pleasant Hill. Work on the remaining 1.3 miles of levee on the north side of the basin is scheduled for early in the year 2000. The bulk of the credit for this type of work can be attributed to our two heavy

equipment operators, Willard Lynch and John Walker. They are always willing to go the extra mile to insure the work done on your property is work you can be proud of.

### ***SNY OFFICE***

Under the leadership of Jeanie Cox, the Business Office of the District continues to provide the support required for the efficient, overall operation of the entire District. Jeanie is assisted, on a part time basis, by Jane Guthrie. This past year, a new computer system was purchased by the District to better provide for not only our current needs, but allow for expansion to enhance the efficiency of future operations of the District as increased demands develop. In addition, the Sny Island Levee Drainage District now has Internet accessibility which will be a great benefit during high water events. The District has also just recently purchased a new VHF radio system with installation to be completed by late January, 2000. The new system is considered "state of the art" and will provide a far superior communication system throughout the District not only for routine work, but also more importantly during emergencies.

### ***TUBE INSTALLATION***

We continue to provide a good inventory of both metal and plastic tubes to assist you in solving your drainage problems. Normally, we carry a sizable inventory of plastic tubes ranging in diameter from 8" to 36". In most cases, the tubes are 20' long. In terms of metal tubes, our normal inventory includes diameters ranging from 8" to 24". We also stock a good supply of couplers. Naturally, we can special order about any size tube you might need. We continue to have the policy that if the Sny's equipment is in the immediate area, District staff will install tubes in District ditches or tubes that empty directly into Sny ditches for the landowners at no charge. However, the Sny will not guarantee the installation for proper flow and will not be responsible for future damage that may occur to the tube or area crops resulting from the installation. As a special note, if you are setting fires in either District or private ditches where plastic tubes are present, stay in the area of the tubes until the fire has either passed by the tube or is out. We are seeing instances where these plastic tubes have actually caught fire and burned completely up. Again, make a special effort to watch out for this problem.

### ***BRUSH CONTROL***

For years, many of you have taken advantage of the Sny's brush control program. It is our policy to provide herbicide to landowners for spraying in and along **District** ditches on their land. The District makes this available by having the landowner/operator come by the District's New Canton office and obtain a voucher to be presented to the Sny's approved, herbicide dealer. Again, the herbicide is to be applied in **District Ditches Only**, and will be for a specific amount of product.

### ***SNY RIGHT OF WAY***

As is the case with almost any successful operation, we constantly look to improve on our current operations, whether it is in the drainage district arena or with farming operations. We want to encourage you to look to enhance your personal drainage needs, because more times than not, it will benefit the entire District. If these improvements are located near Sny drainage facilities, please contact the office before starting work on your

improvements. In doing this, we can assist you with the location of appropriate right of way lines.

We are continuing to experience some degree of private boat traffic up and down the Sny channel. We want to again remind everyone that this is not a public waterway available for use by anyone. The Sny is actually owned by those landowners whose property is adjacent to the Sny channel. The District has an easement on the waterway for drainage purposes only. Anyone using the Sny for hunting or fishing must first get permission from the appropriate landowner, and then from the Drainage District. If not, the impacted landowner would have every right to sign a complaint against the hunter or fisherman for trespassing.

Over this past year, we have noticed an increasing amount of evidence of vehicles being driven on the diversion channel and main stem river levees. In fact, a considerable amount of damage has been done this past year. We are asking the residents of the District to help us by contacting the Sny office should they see any vehicles being driven on the levees in the District. This type of activity is against the law. ***PLEASE KEEP IN MIND, THESE LEVEES ARE FOR YOUR PROTECTION. PLEASE HELP US KEEP THEM PROPERLY MAINTAINED TO PROVIDE YOU WITH THE BEST POSSIBLE FLOOD PROTECTION.***

### ***HOLIDAY NEWS***

In observance of the Christmas holiday season, the District's Business Office will be closed all day on Friday, December 24. We will be closed on Friday, December 31 in observance of the New Year holiday. Otherwise, the Business Office will be open during regular weekday hours, 8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. , December 27, 28, 29 and 30, and from January 3 on.

### ***FINANCIAL STATEMENT***

The financial report noted in this newsletter is for our fiscal year ending August 31, 1998. Audited figures for the fiscal year ending August 31, 1999 are not available at the time of this printing.

***The Commissioners and staff of the Sny Island Levee Drainage District wish you and your family a joyous and safe holiday season and extend to you best wishes for a prosperous 2000!***

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Russell E. Koeller – President

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Jack L. Borrowman – Secretary

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George D. Borrowman - Commissioner