

E Week Opens Thursday



The ENGINEER'S WEEK Open House is planned and constructed entirely by students, with the advice and help from time to time of the faculty. The 1949 event, 37th in the history of the University, will begin Thursday afternoon. The public is urged to attend. Student heads of Engineer's Week shown conferring with Dean Roy M. Green (seated, center) are Bob Bottum and Meno Wilhelms, and Neil Shields, secretary-treasurer.

Baseball, Talks Wind Up Week

Whereas open house is all for the public the Friday field day is all for the student engineer.

This is day of inter-departmental competition, general mingling and an all-around good time. Through games of baseball and faculty-student bull sessions, the engineers become better acquainted.

Following the morning convocation, students adjourn to Pioneer Park. Baseball, a sack race and other contests of energy and ingenuity are the order of the day. Points earned by the winners in each event count on the special award presented at the evening banquet.

Engineers Plan Dinner-Dance Friday Evening

The Engineer's Week dinner-dance tradition has been revived this year and a capacity crowd will attend the affair Friday evening in the Union ballroom.

William Raines will act as toastmaster at the banquet, at which scholarships and honors will be announced. Dean Roy M. Green will present the O. J. Fee award; Kent Tiller, the Sigma Tau scholarship Key; and Temple Neumann, the Blueprint Key award.

Announcement of departmental awards will precede the presentation of the winner of the Engineer's Week contest by Bob Bottum and the Field Day prize by Meno Wilhelms.

Dancing to the music of Johnny Cox's orchestra will begin at 9 p.m. after a half-hour organ recital and get-acquainted period.

Displays Include New Axial Motor

Among the displays will be the new axial airgap motor, made by the Fairbanks-Morse Company. This motor is the latest development in the electric power field.

Features of the motor are compactness in size, lighter weight, increased flywheel effect and an unlimited application field. Instead of having the rotating part enclosed by the coils, this motor is built with the rotating unit on top of them. From this construction comes the name axial airgap.

The motor has been used on lawn motors, floor waxers, close motor mounts on gear cutters, slushing machines and other equipment where a thin but powerful motor is needed.

all the same. The cause is a united drive. And besides, we've got to have some excuse for having a rip-roaring picnic on school time!"

Open House Displays "Tomorrow's Reality"

Today's Dream—Tomorrow's Reality.

The motto of Engineer's Week might well be used to describe the week itself, although today plans for the annual event are far past the dream stage. A variety of activities is keeping the engineers busy, as they arrange displays for Thursday's Open House.

Ford Tester To Address Convocation

William A. McConnell, head of the engineering test section of the Ford Motor Company, Dearborn, Mich., will discuss the testing of new automobiles at the Engineer's Week Convocation, Friday morning. Beginning at 11 a. m., the convocation will be held at the Nebraska theater.

McConnell, a 1941 graduate of the University's Engineering College, is the son of the Rev. R. A. McConnell, pastor of First Plymouth Congregational church in



WILLIAM M'CONNELL.

Lincoln. The engineer is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi and Sigma Tau while at the University he won drawing awards from the SPEE and was also an intramural wrestling winner.

In the summer of 1939 he began working for the General Motors laboratory at Detroit and the following summer he worked at the company's truck and coach plant. In 1941, after graduation, he became a test engineer at General Motors proving grounds.

During 1944 he did experimental work for the navy at the radar proving grounds at Harvard university. He has been with the Ford Motor Company since 1946.

McConnell has made several inventions of equipment for testing new automobiles. He will describe the experimental approach to problems which can't be solved with pencils. The techniques used in finding the answers are not explained in textbooks.

Fly's Private Life Revealed

The secret of the housefly is out. Bob Albee and Bill Kuser of the engineering mechanics department have perfected the mechanical replica of the housefly's gyroscope.

After reading about this phenomenon in Life magazine recently, these men prepared an exhibit as part of the Bancroft hall displays.

The housefly keeps his balance and directional sense by means of a small rod that oscillates in the same plane regardless of his movements. This condition is simulated with a small rod and mechanism representing the movements of a housefly.

Students and members of the University faculty are invited to attend the Open House from 1:30 p.m. until 11 p.m. Ten groups of exhibits will be set up at various places on the campus. Locations are marked on a map found elsewhere in the paper.

THIS EVENT serves each year to acquaint the public with the functions of the cooperating departments of the University. More than a formal exhibition, the displays are unusual and interesting. Each is based on principles which have practical applications in a modern technical society.

A special invitation has also been sent to high school students urging them to spend a day in Lincoln visiting the city, state capitol and Open House. This gives them an opportunity to see the state university which they might someday choose to attend. The tour of Open House introduces them to the machines, materials, processes, problems and principles which they meet indirectly in everyday life.

ENGINEER'S WEEK is not a new thing at the University. In 1894 the members of the Society of Electrical Engineers of the University of Nebraska decided to hold an exhibition on the evening of Charter Day, Feb. 15. After working for many weeks building most of their equipment, they amazed the crowds which visited the new electrical engineering building. Demonstrations included a counterfeit coin tester, the production of calcium carbide in an electric furnace, and its reaction with water, electrolysis and the pulling power of the "big electromagnet."

Establishing a tradition, displays on heating, welding, electroplating and the telephone were added in 1895 at what was called the "First Annual Exhibition."

IN 1913, with the mechanical engineering building completed and new laboratory equipment installed, the other departments of the College of Engineering joined the electrical engineers in presenting the "First Annual Engineer's Week."

In the past, essential parts of Engineer's Week have included ducking for non-cooperating engineers and brief skirmishes with the lawyers. At one time the School of Pharmacy, the geology department and the College of Engineering joined in entertaining the public.

Steam Rainbow Geyser Guards ME Entrance

Spotlights on a jet of live steam will guard the approach to the Mechanical engineering building Tuesday night.

The rainbow fountain is fed directly from the steam supply in the University power plant. Floodlights of various colors will be played on the geyser.

Inside the lab building, it's a day at the races. A high speed race track, designed and built by the ME's, will feature engineering problems of centrifugal force. Self-propelled, gas-powered mid-get racers speeding around a 40 foot track at 60 miles per hour are propelled by tiny gas engines similar to model airplane units. Caster oil and noise of the race track are duplicated to the nth degree.

Patron Saint Tradition Claimed by Engineers

BY SLIP STICK.

The other day while I was standing in the halls of lower learning waiting for my sosh class I was accosted by a red-faced freshman, apparently bent on speaking to someone. He must have sensed that I was an engineer, because he came straight toward me.

"Hey, you, with your brains hanging from your belt," sez he, "I want to talk to you."

What was I to do? I couldn't run. The mob had started down the steps and he had me backed in a corner.

"Say bud," sez he, "what's the deal on this Engineers' Week? All day long I've heard nothing but that confounded PA system blaring confounded music, and some confounded joker talking about an Engineers' Week?"

I FELT the fellow. Obviously the boy hadn't been taken aside when he was in his earlier teens and had the facts explained to him. Really it's pathetic what some of these men in sosh college don't know. I saw then and there that it was up to me to help the boy out.

"It's this way," I said. "It all started back when Ireland was a small country. In those days there was a fellow known as Pat. (His intimate friends called him Saint Patrick). Well, now, Pat had a firm that dealt with the extermination of rodents . . ."

"Yes," sez my friend, "but what's this got to do with Engineer's Week?"

"IT'S THIS WAY," I said, "St. Patrick is the patron saint of the engineers. You probably wonder why the engineers happened to choose St. Pat as their patron saint. The truth is that St. Pat chose the engineers."

"You see, it all took place back in A. D. 443. About that time the 'little bit of heaven' was having rodent trouble. St. Pat was called to Erin to do the job of dealing with SNAKES. This was long before the Bell system, and the telephone connections were pretty bad. Instead of hearing 'snakes,' he heard STAKES; and thinking he had a valid contract, he promptly enlisted all the engineers he could muster to aid him with the survey."

"WHEN HE ARRIVED on the site, he was immediately corrected and told to drive all the snakes into the sea. Here he was, stranded, alone with nothing but a contract and a sizeable corps of engineers.

"Fortunately he had chosen well, for his loyal engineers drew their slide rules and clubbed those overgrown fish worms into the sea. The matter was settled, contract or not contract. St. Patrick promptly knighted all these brave fellows, and then in turn declared him their patron saint.

"So you see, my friend, whether some colleges observe this day on St. Patrick's day or, like we do, just a little before Ivy Day, it's

E Week Provides Display Of Engineering Education

In addition to its value as a popular attraction to the college and as a social outlet for the student body, E. Week involves a fine display of initiative and drive, even in the preparation of the smallest exhibit.

The project is approved by the faculty as a valuable auxiliary to the educational program of young engineers. However it is important to note that the entire undertaking is planned and carried through to completion by student action.

AN UNDERSTANDING of the predominance of student initiative can be gained from a study of the succession of authority behind the Engineer's Week committee. Each year the co-chairmen are chosen from candidates

selected from the six departmental student societies. Final selection is made by the Engineers' Executive committee, composed of the executive officers of the student societies sponsoring the event, under the supervision of Dean Roy M. Green and the faculty adviser, J. S. Blackman.

The real backbone of the week is found in the active young engineers banded together in the ASAE, AICHe, ASCE, AIEE, ASME and Architectural Society. (To the unenlightened, the alphabet organizations are those of the agricultural, chemical, civil, electrical and mechanical engineers.) By enlisting the support of non-members, these groups bring the full weight of the college into the outstanding production that is Engineer's Week.

TEN DEPARTMENTS are represented this year. In addition to the six branches of engineering and the departments of engineering mechanics and geology, the Army and Navy ROTC units will participate with their engineering personnel and equipment.

For Open House, each department places on display all of its engineering and instructional equipment, material loaned by various engineering firms and the results of individual and collective endeavors in the engineering line. Exhibits are judged by a faculty committee on the basis of amount of student work and preparation, value from an engineering standpoint and interest to the general public.