

The Daily Nebraskan

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NIGHT NEWS EDITOR M. J. MILICK

Letterip

Gentlemen:

Engineers' Week and especially the Open House is carried on as an educational program. It is designed for the practice of planning and management on a large scale. The experience growing out of such a program is vital to the later practice of the professions of engineering and architecture.

I welcome this opportunity to explain briefly the manner in which the work is carried on.

Planning for Engineers' Week is the exclusive obligation of the students in the College. All ideas are presented through the various groups including the Student Branches of American Society of Agricultural Engineers, American Institute of Architects, American Society of Civil Engineers, American Society of Chemical Engineers, American Institute of Electrical Engineers and American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the Honorary Society of Sigma Tau. Planning is initiated through the Engineers' Executive Board which coordinates the group activities. The operations of the Executive Board are observed by and sponsored under the leadership of Professor J. S. Blackman.

Open House sees literally hundreds of students performing tasks which have never previously been undertaken and for which no rehearsal has ever been held. I greatly admire the ingenuity of the students, the thoroughness of their planning and the effectiveness in carrying on this large display with a precision which is remarkable.

It can truly be said that each Engineers' Week has been more constructive and more educational as the years have passed. This is a possibility because key chairmen in the various activities file a written report of their activities, their problems and suggestions for improvement. These reports are studied by succeeding groups as they plan and prepare for the occasion.

Upon this occasion I especially wish to express my deep gratitude to the students of the college, to the members of the faculty, and to the University community for its friendly assistance in carrying out the program of the Week.

Sincerely yours,

ROY M. GREEN,
Dean, College of Engineering
and Architecture.

Meet the Chairman

Bob Bottum and Meno Wilhelms have guided the work of Engineer's Week '49 as co-chairmen.

Bottum, a senior in the mechanical engineering department is a member of ASME and manager of the ME's basketball team. A former Navy pilot, he was field day chairman of E. Week last year.

A senior in civil engineering, Wilhelms is a member of ASCE,



Bottum Wilhelms

"N" club and past president of the Mid-Continent Conference of the student chapters of ASCE.

Neil E. Shields has served as secretary-treasurer. Departmental chairmen are as follows:

- Agricultural Engineering: Leslie Jochens.
 - Architectural Engineers: E. A. Griffiths, Richard J. Kusek.
 - Chemical Engineers: Ed Finley, Duane Morin.
 - Civil Engineers: Joe Peterson, Charles West.
 - Electrical Engineers: Floyd Bean, Al Scheideler.
 - Engineering Mechanics: Darrel Frederick.
 - Navy Engineers: Jim Peterson, R. L. Zwart.
 - Geology: G. E. Graham, Maurice Mendenhall, Max Christensen.
 - Mechanical Engineers: Carl Hellerich, John Powell.
 - Military Engineers: Marvin L. Klug.
- Special chairmen are:
 Banquet: Charles Kellogg, Alexander F. Henry.
 Contest: Edgar L. Coleman.
 Convocation: Cecil J. Doubt.
 Field Day: Charles Roberts.
 Inquiries: Andrew Miller.
 Photographer: Joe Rogers.
 Program: Paul Versch.
 Publicity: Kent Tiller, William E. Spilner.
 Ribbon Sales: Burnell Furstennau.
 Sledge: Dan Jones.
 Traffic: Lloyd R. Dobney.
 Window Display: Vernon L. Hasting.

You too can bend an iron or steel bar. Do it and get it measured by a gauge in Bancroft hall.

In the Beginning . . .

Engineers' Week had to begin somewhere, sometime, and the book of minutes of the old-time Society of Electrical Engineers indicates that the idea originated in the mid-nineties. To be sure, full organization of the plan was a development over a term of years, and it wasn't until later that it became known under its present title. The germ was the E. E. Show—a display of new things in electrical phenomena—and nearly all electrical things were new fifty-five years ago!

How much these early events were appreciated is evidenced by a letter from Chancellor Geo. E. McLean transmitting a resolution of thanks from the Board of Regents (February 19, 1898) "for the excellent program that you arranged for Charter Day eve...for the excellent lecture; also for the exhibit..."

The lecture mentioned was given by Mr. T. C. Martin of New York City, speaking on Niagara Power at the Funks Opera House and was attended by dignitaries in dress suits. Admission was "...free to the public, but a certain number of seats will be reserved for those especially interested at a cost of twenty-five cents each, ..."

As a "Week," the engineers' celebration have included many features. For several years a parade was staged on downtown streets. This proved to be too heavy an undertaking on top of the great Night Exhibit of all engineering departments, and was allowed to lapse. Engineers' Night took on new significance and possibilities with the completion of the Mechanical Engineering building—now christened Richards Laboratory. The three early engineering societies negotiated a general group known as University Nebraska Engineering Society at the turn of the century, and their joint efforts brought out many new ideas and experiments in entertainment and display. Finally, and now for a term of years, the program settled down to Engineers' Night regularly placed on Thursday of the chosen week and beginning in the afternoon to accommodate the crowds and visiting out-of-town high school students; the Friday morning convocation, with a prominent engineering speaker; Field Day, generally Friday afternoon; a dinner and dance Friday or Saturday.

Prime importance in all of these events is given to student planning, and particularly is this true of the exhibits. Downtown window displays are upon an assigned basis, and the results are judged and rated comparatively by departments. Similarly, the judging committee rates the evening performances of Engineers' Night. A student committee computes Field Day scores. All of these ratings are compounded and at the banquet a plaque is awarded to the "Winnah!"

And, oh yes! the SLEDGE! Well, of that scurrilous sheet, probably the less said the better, but it has been a "tradition" for a quarter of a century.

And there were the days of the "brown derby" and the "green derby"—the latter still in the dean's office—a peace offering of laws to engineers after a formal debate over who should possess the former. Some wild scraps have been staged between laws and engineers over the campus sign for Engineers' Week, occasionally wrecked. But it may be related truthfully, to the chagrin of both sides that laws and the engineers alike were sucked into the worst scrap in history by a sportive student of another college (a pretty bit of amateur detective work was involved in his later identification) who staged carefully timed depredations with a paint brush and stood on the sidelines the rest of the week watching the cracking of heads, the wrecking of property, and final subduing of the mob by fire department hose. Our files still contain the lists of names recording the "head tax" collection from students of both colleges to pay the piper. And he was paid! I know, for I chipped in with the boys!

—O. J. Ferguson

Ever watched a prospector pan for gold? See the display at Morrill hall. It's your chance to get rich.

Learn about the elements of television. The EE department will take your picture with a television camera and project it on a receiver.

Don't miss the Engineer's Week Open House Thursday. See the petrographic microscope and the Geiger counter.

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