The Knowledge Bank at The Ohio State University

Ohio State Engineer

Title: Editorial

Issue Date: Nov-1929

Publisher: Ohio State University, College of Engineering

Citation: Ohio State Engineer, vol. 13, no. 2 (November, 1929), 16-17.

URI: http://hdl.handle.net/1811/34630

Appears in Collections: Ohio State Engineer: Volume 13, no. 2 (November, 1929)

EDITORIAL

MANAGING BOARD

EDWARD M. SEVCIK, Arch.E. 3
Editor

HAYWARD A. GAY, M.E. 4
Business Manager

WALTER A. GALLOWAY, I.E. 4
Departmental Editor

FRANCIS J. MARKEY, I.E. 3
Advertising Manager

MARK L. ALLEN, C.E. 3
Feature Editor

EDWARD R. BILLINGS, M.E. 2
Circulation Manager

EDITORIAL STAFF

Edward Evans, Che.E. 2
E. M. Schoenborn, Jr., Che.E. 3
Robert M. Ewing, M.E. 2
Judd Lough, E.E. 4
Theodore A. Koch, E.E. 4
C.V. Spangler, M.E. 4
Fred A. Kremser, C.E. 2
C. W. Rainey, E.E. 2
William B. Stockton, C.E. 3
John Kunkle, M.E. 1
Fred H. Trimmer, E.E. 1
John Sandfort, M.E. 1
William B. Bucher, M.E. 1
Harold Jordan, Che.E. 3
Len Winkler, E.E. 1
Alfred N. Watson, C.E. 3
John F. Piper, C.E. 1
Elden Harry, '33
Burrel Shirey, '33

BUSINESS STAFF

Dana H. Perkins, '33
Wayne W. Bach, '33
John Driskell, '33
Miller Carter, '33
Tim Armstrong, '33
Fred W. Bedford, '33
Lewis H. Mussman, '33
Paul Jones, '30
Arthur Tay, '32
Harry A. Dorsey, '33

ADVISORY BOARD

Dean E. A. Hitchcock
Prof. John Younger
Asst. Prof. Sada Harbarger

Managing Board and one Representative from Each Departmental Student Society

ENGINEERS' ROUNDUP

"All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy," some one philosophically remarked one time, and so the engineers all get together one day of the long scholastic year, forget their slide rules and logarithms, and banding together celebrate the annual Engineers' Roundup. This will be held this year on Thursday evening, December 5, at the Engineering Experiment Station. Elwood Stanberry is in charge and has selected the following committee: F. J. Markey, entertainment; E. M. Sevcik, publicity; H. W. Allison, refreshments, J. L. Weaver, souvenirs, and H. A. Gay, awards.

The Engineers' Council, who sponsors this affair, offer a good time to everyone. The various technical societies will present entertainment sketches, the most individual and original of which will merit cup awards. Plans are being made in regard to the holding of a faculty debate between several of our well known professors. There will be refreshments of all kinds and many other events of interest to engineers.

Here is a wonderful opportunity for the new man to break the ice and get acquainted with his professors and fellow students, and for the older engineer to delight in the comradeship of his friends and associates. Let us all get together and make this jubilee night the most memorable of the year. Bring your engineer friends and we'll make lots of "whoopie."—E. M. S., Jr.

The Truth about Geronimo, by Britton Davis, is a story of this famous Apache told by one whose contact with these Indians has been probably as close as that of any man living.

The faculty of the metallurgy department is engaged in testing coal for use in the various state institutions.

ANNUAL E. C. M. A. CONVENTION

Sixty-five delegates of the Engineering College Magazines Associated, representing 23 engineering college publications, convened at Purdue University October 31st to November 2nd. *The Ohio State Engineer* was represented by Edward M. Sevcik, editor; Hayward A. Gay, business manager; and Francis J. Markey, advertising manager.

E. C. M. A. is an organization to promote technical publication in our engineering schools and to furnish a medium through which national advertisers may reach the technical student. Twenty-three magazines are now affiliated, two of which, *The Auburn Engineer* and *The Marquette Engineer,* were admitted to membership at the recent convention.

We are proud to announce that *The Ohio State Engineer* was awarded second place for general excellence of student articles during the year 1928-29, "A Primitive Engineering Project," by Edward M. Schoenborn, which appeared in our columns last year was adjudged the best student article of the year, while "Our New Concrete Street," by Benn Blinn, which also appeared in *The Ohio State Engineer* last year was awarded fourth place in the selection for best individual articles.

All details of the convention were extremely well-handled and we wish to convey our thanks for the cordial hospitality of our host, *The Purdue Engineer.*—M. L. A.

The history of the ancient "vampire" tradition has been brought to light by Montague Summers in his latest book *The Vampire in Europe.* This book is intended to supplement Mr. Summers' other book on this subject *The Vampire: His Kith and Kin.*

GENIUS AND EDUCATION

On this, the fiftieth anniversary of the electric light, the whole world is paying tribute to a man of remarkable character and ingenuity, who, seventy-five years ago was dismissed from school with the schoolmaster's report that he was "addled." Edison's education continued, however, under his mother's guidance and with his own eager pursuit of knowledge—especially of things mechanical and electrical.

In his desire for money with which to buy chemicals and laboratory supplies, Edison sought employment as a newsboy on a train running from Port Huron to Detroit, Michigan. His three months schooling and his mother's teaching must have been effective, for before he was fifteen years old he was editing, printing, and publishing the *Grand Trunk Herald,* a small newspaper for which he had three hundred subscribers. He had set up a printing shop and a laboratory in a section of a baggage car on the train on which he was working at the time, and had newsboys working for him on other trains. His first business venture appeared entirely successful until it was abruptly ended by the conductor of the train when Edison accidently set the baggage coach on fire with his chemicals.

At the age of twenty-one, Edison patented his first invention, an automatic vote recorder. The next year (1869) he obtained his first salaried position at $300 a month as superintendent of the Gold Indicator Company, a stock exchange. Later, Edison formed the Pope, Edison & Company, the first firm of electrical engineers.

Of Edison's inventions, probably the most outstanding in its usefulness, is the incandescent lamp. The first practical incandescent lamp (carbon filament) was finally developed in October, 1879 after fourteen months of hard work and an expenditure of $40,000.

From that day to this, Edison has sent forth from his laboratories a continuous stream of inventions of extreme usefulness to all mankind. With less than a grade school education to start with, Edison has risen to fame through his remarkable character and ingenuity. Why then, do we have such a great demand for an engineering college today? Granting that all of us are eager to learn all that an engineer must know, why can't we start out as Edison did, to acquire our engineering knowledge? Edison has said, "Genius is two per cent inspiration and ninety-eight percent perspiration."

We believe that it is not humanly possible for a man, even though he be gifted with an unusual character and ability, to start out in our modern times with less than a grade school education, and accomplish wonders equal to those of Edison. In Edison's time, the accumulation of engineering knowledge was not nearly so great as it is today. Consequently, a man gifted with ingenuity and an unusually creative mind, who had acquired a firm background of fundamentals, could accomplish wonders five decades ago in comparison to the usual run of inventions of the times. Today, in order to start out as Edison did, a man would not only have to develop new things in engineering, but would also have to review the immense accmulation of engineering knowledge up to this date. Today, new and useful inventions are fairly swamping the patent offices. They may be less spectacular now, but nevertheless many of them are of great importance in our modern life. New inventions today are necessities, not novelties. In order to develop something new, an engineer must know what has been done up to date in that line. He cannot spend his entire lifetime accumulating this knowledge, but needs to get it in as few years as possible in order to be of the most usefulness to his fellow men. A thorough college education can give the fundamentals and a fairly complete summary of what has been done in engineering up to this time. A college education cannot alone produce a genius, but it can develop a creative mind, and today we need not just one, or a few inventors, but *many*. We shall need many more tomorrow.

—T. A. K.