

*The*

# MECHANICAL'S BULL-SESSION

1931



MECHANICAL ENGINEERING LABORATORIES

CLASS of '30

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

East Orange, N.J.,  
December 14, 1931.

Mr. Wallace E. Nelson,  
Port Byron, Ill.

Dear Mr. Nelson:

I shall have to admit that your letter of December 4, asking me to prepare a foreword for the 1931 booklet of the University of Iowa "Mechanicals" of '30 did not at first inspire any very enthusiastic reaction on my part. I have spent only a day in Iowa -- and such a day! Off the train at Ames about 8:00 a.m., three hours there -- a hurried ride from Ames to Iowa City, a couple hours there -- and then for the evening meeting at Davenport. And, incidentally, this is a fair sample of the experiences during the year of my presidency of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, in which I visited all of the 72 Local Sections and more than 60 of the 108 Student Branches. And then, too, I do not have the pleasure of knowing any of the Class of '30.

Over against these things, however, I do have the most pleasant recollections of the beautiful drive from Cedar Rapids to Iowa City with Professors Croft and Barnes, of your attractive University on the banks of the river, the mechanical laboratory fast nearing completion, a hurried chat with your genial and capable Dean, the A.S.M.E. Student Branch meeting and the enthusiastic report of its last year's activities, and then before rushing off to Davenport, the visit to the old state house which gives such a fine tone and background to your wide-awake and progressive "U".

I started, in a mechanical sort of way, to leaf over the pages of your booklet of a year ago, but quickly I forgot my surroundings and the radio in the corner of my study, and slipped back 30 years or more. How clearly your letters betray your personalities, but 30 years have not changed the characteristics of the gang very much from what they were in my day. I saw not your names, or your detail experiences, but the different members of my class of '98 at Minnesota -- and I wondered what they might be doing, for we haven't had a "Wally" to keep us in touch one with the other.

And then, waking from my dream, I retraced my steps and reread the letters. How I have crossed and re-

crossed your steps this year, and how many things we have in common. What has the year done to you and where are you now?

Allen and his map selling, his family experiences and his drafting. How we do get mixed up and twisted around in these intensive days! Plans kicked into a "cocked hat". Have we had a sufficiently broad training and are we well enough balanced to keep our heads and adjust ourselves to new and radically changing conditions?

Bergsten and Frigidaire! How well I recall C.F.Kettering, president of the General Motors Research Corporation, telling a few of us many years ago at Charlottesville, Va., of what they were quietly working on and what they hoped to do with refrigeration -- and his predictions have come true. Only last week I chatted with him at the Cabinet Dinner at the White House.

Clark and Hardwick with the Detroit Edison. Alex Dow, its president, was a former president of the A.S.M.E. C.F.Hirshfeld, a brilliant engineer and chief of the research department, is a member of the present A.S.M.E. Council, and J.W.Parker, chief engineer, is a member of the Meetings and Program Committee of the A.S.M.E. All good friends of mine!

Davis and soap. Cecil Gamble and I have served on the Home Division committee of the National Council of the Y.M.C.A. for several years -- and we are all looking to the fine work that Procter & Gamble are doing in the attempt to stabilize employment for their workers.

Fawcett I, of course, have no line on. I shall look forward to the forthcoming booklet to find how you have fared after the extra year. I wager that you will profit from it.

Hamil and the Duponts. How I love your comment on the achievement of the mechanical engineer, Amick. These chemists know how to sell themselves, though, even if it is through a Foundation set up by one of its far-sighted members. And what a marvelous work the Duponts are doing in pioneering in various fields!

McLarney in New York. How frequently we find ourselves facing tasks we don't specially hanker for! Good discipline, maybe. Look me up. Will be glad to see you. Am at 30 Church Street now, but may change location before you see this. Am with the Simmons-Boardman Publishing Company.

Mougin and the "Silent Cable Drive Automatic Washer". Surely a gift to humanity. This industrial era has lifted a great burden from the backs of our women folk. L.P. Alford compares the engineer of today with the knights of old in this respect.

Nelson and the Roberts & Schaefer Company. We know them well and most favorably in the railway business. (I am managing editor of the Railway Age.) I have been fighting hard to get the Local Sections of the A.S.M.E. to take a greater interest in the Junior Members. Have they made you welcome? Hope our Chicago Section is making good in that respect. If not, stir them up!

Plumly and the Telephone Company. My home is in East Orange and it is full of A.T. & T. engineers. The mere mention of your occupation marshals a whole troop of friends in my imagination -- and a great work they are doing.

Sanger and his canning. I have visited many of your plants, particularly on the West Coast, and I never fail to enjoy watching the process. Incidentally, painstaking and long continued research has done wonders for your business. William E. Taylor of the American Can Company has a place abutting my home.

Rochlin with the General Electric at Hawthorne. One of my classmates, Charlie Gilcrest is at Hawthorne, as is also J.H. Lonie, who was my first boss in the drafting room of the Chicago Great Western Railway at St. Paul.

And so, although we may not have met, I do have certain points of contact with the members of your gang. And I am keenly interested in knowing in an intimate way just how the younger members of our profession are faring in these new and troublesome days. Moreover, I am keenly interested in the studies that the A.S.M.E. has been making of the economic status of the mechanical engineer and of the follow-up work that it expects to do in the expectation of developing a stronger sense of professional consciousness and of raising the status of the profession to a much higher level.

Here's wishing you all the best of good things in the days to come. You are members of a great profession!

Sincerely,

Roy V. Wright

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

University of Iowa

Iowa City, Iowa  
January 7, 1932

Members of the Class of 1930:

The past year has gone so quickly that somehow it seems that this letter should be a Fourth of July Oration, rather than a New Year's Greeting; however, the snow on "Engineering Hill" shatters the illusion.

The most interesting news, probably, is to report the fact that the new Mechanical Engineering Laboratory is about 95% completed. Moving into the new quarters is progressing slowly due to the fact that piping, electrical connections, and some exhaust ducts must be installed before most of the equipment can be set in place. We expect that the building will be ready for complete usage at the beginning of classes next fall.

You will be interested in the fact that due to a shortage of funds, the Junior and Senior students in the laboratory are devoting a few of their laboratory periods to moving and installing part of the equipment in the new building.

The Department has recently received a donation of about \$4000 worth of gas-fired equipment through the generous interest of the Mid-West Gas Association. This equipment consists of eighteen different items, from an automatic core-oven to a gas-fired refrigerating unit. Many more donations are being negotiated with other companies who are much interested in the new laboratory.

The enrollment in the present Senior class is thirty-two with about the same number in the Junior class. There are seven men taking graduate work in the Department.

There have been no changes in the teaching staff. Professor Barnes' book "Industrial Engineering" is just off the McGraw-Hill press; Professor Keller keeps in touch with engineering affairs of the State as Chairman of the State Engineer's Examiners Board; Professor Gaywood is developing a new course in Internal Combustion Engine Design and giving his spare time to the development of the Gyro-accelerometer; Mr. O'Brien is busy reorganizing the Shops courses and designing and building delicate scientific apparatus for other Departments on the Campus; and Mr. Fielding is developing new methods and experiments in his own laboratory as well as being on the council of the Tri-City Branch of the American Society of Steel Treathers.

To those of you without engineering work, I suggest that you study some particular branch of your chosen profession during your leisure so that you may be better prepared when the wheels begin to roll again.

We would like all of you to keep us informed as to your work and location and most certainly advise us when an opening occurs in your organization so that we can try and place a graduate of the University of Iowa in that opening.

With best wishes for a happy New Year to all the Class, I am

Very truly yours,

*Huber O. Croft.*

Professor Huber O. Croft  
Head of the Department.

January 2, 1932

Mr. Wallace E. Nelson,  
Port Byron, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Nelson:

Enclosed find my check for \$1.75 which I very gladly give you as my share of the expense of the 1930 booklet. Signing checks these days is a very difficult task. In fact, the demand is so great there are but few left to sign.

My present financial condition is due to the effect of Federal laws, State laws, County laws, Corporation laws, By-Laws, Brother-in-laws, Mother-in-laws and Outlaws, that have been foisted upon an unsuspecting public. Through these various laws, I have been held down, held up, walked on, sat on, flattened and squeezed until I do not know where I am, what I am, or why I am.

These laws compel me to pay a Merchant's tax, Capital tax, Stock tax, Excess tax, Income tax, Real Estate tax, Property tax, Auto tax, Gas tax, Water tax, Light tax, Cigar tax, Street tax, School tax, Syntax and Carpet tax.

In addition to these taxes, I am requested and required to contribute to every Society and Organization that the inventive mind of man can organize. To the Society of St. John the Baptist, the Women's Relief, Navy League, the Children's Home, the Policemen's Benefit, the Dorcas Society, the Y. M. C. A., the Boy Scouts, the Jewish Relief, the Near East, the Gold Diggers' Home, also every hospital and every charitable institution in town, the Red Cross, the Black Cross, the White Cross, the Purple Cross and the Double Cross.

The Government has so governed my business that I do not know who own it. I am suspected, expected, inspected, and disrespected, examined, re-examined, informed, required, commanded and compelled until all I know is that I am supposed to provide and inexhaustible supply of money for every known need, desire or hope of the human race, and because I refuse to donate to all and go out and beg, borrow and steal money to give away, I am cussed, and discussed, boycotted, talked to, talked about, lied to, lied about, held up, held down and robbed, until I am nearly ruined, so that the only reason I am clinging to life is to see what the R--- is coming next!

Notwithstanding the above condition in which I find myself I wouldn't for the world lose this opportunity to say hello to the members of the class of 1929.

Very truly yours,

  
George J. Keller

DEPARTMENT OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING  
The State University of Iowa  
Iowa City

107 Engineering Bldg.  
January 5, 1932

Mechanical Engineering Class of 1930:

I always enjoy visiting with you men when you return to the campus, and I have had this pleasure to a limited extent during the past year. This letter will give me the opportunity of telling the rest of you men some of the things that we might talk over were you here in my office. I shall await with great interest receiving a copy of the annual letter in order to hear your part of the conversation.

Naturally, I want to begin by telling you about developments in our work in Industrial Engineering and Management here. I am more enthusiastic about this field now than ever before. The events of the past few years certainly show the growing importance of management to the engineer.

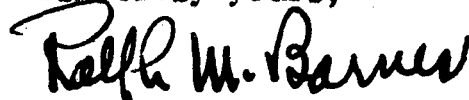
While the names and number of courses in Industrial Engineering and Management offered here have not changed recently, yet, by the use of case material, special demonstrations and inspection trips, we have been able to present our work in a fuller and more satisfactory manner.

With the increased enrollment in the Mechanical Engineering Department we have had a similar increase in our industrial engineering subjects, particularly in the senior option courses. We are giving our students instruction in micromotion study methods--a subject which is receiving so much attention in industry today. Also, as a research project, we are now setting up apparatus to run some comparative tests on speed and effort of typical manual operations. We have developed equipment here for this work and hope to have some results for publication within the year.

The Student Branch of the A.S.M.E. with its seventy members has been favored with fine meetings--good papers and outstanding visiting speakers this year. It was our very good fortune to have the national president of the A.S.M.E., Mr. Roy V. Wright, address our group here in November.

Assuring you of my best wishes for a happy and successful new year, I am

Sincerely yours,



Ralph M. Barnes.

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT  
College of Engineering  
Iowa City

January 10, 1932

To the Class of 1930:

Our thoughts are this day as they have been many times this year, turned to the Class of 1930. Some members of this class have been perhaps more fortunate in getting located than others. I use the word fortunate because many engineers of long experience have lost their professional connections the past year through no fault of their own. I have reasons to believe that experience gained and lessons learned during this depression will be capitalized for many times their cost within the next decade. When the year 1932 has passed, the Class of 1930 will be better prepared to exercise sound judgment in engineering matters than the classes of other dates, two years after their graduation.

The work here in the Department is progressing we think. The courses in machine design have been revamped somewhat. The old M.E.40 which you had has been shifted to the junior year and a more advanced course in machine design is being given this year for the first time to seniors. When the kinks in this work are ironed out, we feel that this phase of the work of the department will be much improved.

The new laboratory building of which you have already seen pictures, is now completed, but the equipment is not yet all installed. When the set up is completed, we will have a laboratory which will command the interest of every Mechanical Engineering student.

Awaiting with interest the receipt of the 1932 issue of the "Mechanical Bull-Session", I am

Sincerely yours,

*Thos. G. Caywood*

Thos. G. Caywood,  
Assoc. Prof. of Mechanical Engineering.

2850 Leeward Avenue  
Los Angeles, California

January 11, 1932

Dear Classmates:

Before anyone has time to wonder how I happen to be writing from away out here, I may as well break down and admit that it is purely a matter of financial difficulty. I got so poor that I couldn't even buy coal to keep the family warm in the middle west.

It is ancient history to many of you that I gave Alvey-Ferguson a break last February and went back to selling maps. My retirement followed closely on the heels of an announcement that everybody including the President, Mr. Walter, and myself would be required to accept 10% less salary. I didn't mind the 10% so much but at the rate business had been declining it was quite obvious that there could not be any new openings in the sales force for a considerable while. All I could do, then, was to continue to warm the stool beside a drafting board.

Now I have no false ideas about my drafting ability. No sane employer would long continue to pay me \$144.00 a month, or even \$44.00 as a draftsman. Had I not found the gate of my own accord, it would inevitably have been shown to me some time during the past summer.

A couple of boys from whom I receive occasional letters were still working there when I left. Both lost their jobs early this fall before which time two more large salary cuts had been announced and a majority of the men laid off, either permanently or for an indefinite period. If my foresight could have been as good as my hindsight, I would have gone to work for the largest corporation that was willing to offer me a job when I graduated.

Anyway I loaded up my family of two and went down into Mississippi where I sold maps for two months. This was followed by a short campaign in Wisconsin, after which I spent the usual five weeks training new salesmen in Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin, during which time I left my family at Albion. About July 15th I went up into Northern Michigan, locating first at Traverse City and later at Ishpeming. It was while I was selling at Ishpeming that the Literary Digest honored Ishpeming in so signal a manner by pronouncing it the wettest town in the U.S. Personally I drank all my beer over at Marquette, 16 miles away, so that I cannot reasonably be accused of contributing to Ishpeming's delinquency. The word "Ishpeming" stands for "heaven" in some Indian language. "Negaunee" meaning "hell" was the name given to an adjoining town two miles away. The country is largely inhabited by Finns with tow headed kids and very blonde daughters.

Looking back on it now I suppose that some thought of admiration for the latter, which I inadvertently spoke aloud,

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caused my wife to announce that we were leaving there November 1st. "Nothing doing", I said firmly, "I like it here and intend to stay until November 15th so that I can go deer hunting". November 3rd we passed through Albion on our way to California, the land of perpetual sunshine and "unusual weather". At present I am selling city maps in Hollywood and hoping that some day I may find an opening for a salesman of engineering equipment, or what have you? Before anyone has a chance to heave a sigh of relief, I want to warn you that I'm coming back some time, probably in less than a year.

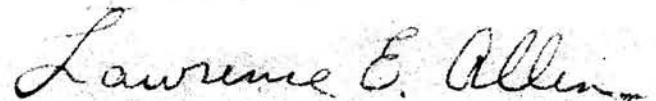
This is really a great place to spend the winter. You can go golfing or deep sea fishing or to a public bridge club any time. If the heat becomes oppressive a glance toward snow covered Mt. Wilson is always good for one shiver.

As for the year that has passed since our last class letter, I sincerely hope that every one of you has enjoyed it as much as myself and that you have had better luck staying with your jobs. I shall be disappointed if the forthcoming class letter doesn't contain something from every one of you. We have in Wally Nelson, the one and only class secretary, and if he is willing to spend so much time and effort every year getting out a letter, the least any one of us can do is to crash through with some such line of hooey as the above.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank Wallace for dedicating last year's letter to my son, L.E. Jr., and to express the hope that Larry will some day appreciate the honor as I do now. I am enclosing one of his pictures, taken about September 1st in case Wallace wishes to reprint it.

With very best wishes all round, I am

Yours sincerely,



Lawrence E. Allen.



January 4, 1932  
401 Salem Avenue  
Dayton, Ohio

Classmates and Friends of 1930:

Here we are in the year of 1932 A. D. (After Depression) or--we'll hope at least. However, 1931 didn't treat me as badly as it could have as I am still working with Frigidaire.

Spent the first three and a half months of the past year on the board then, after several verbal encounters, succeeded in getting a transfer into the Household Test Department, where I got my share of sulphur dioxide gas and learned to wear a gas mask as well as any doughboy.

The work in Household Test was quite interesting as one not only came in contact with machines of our own design, but those of our competitors. These machines were brought in and tested for comparison purposes.

Things ran along smoothly until some of the big boys decided that the overhead should be cut down. Household Test was hit hard--a quarter of the personnel had to be laid off or transferred. Being single and one of the last to enter the department, I was among those to be removed. I was given the choice of going back to board work "or else". The last phrase didn't sound so good, neither did the first part of the statement, but not wishing to be without anything, I went back to the board and am still there.

The Officials did not only decide to fire part of the personnel, but all those that remained were given a sliding scale wage cut. In my case, it was a ten percent cut. So the outcome is, that I am receiving ten percent less than when I came here and am still on the board.

A comparatively small number of the men who came in on training courses were laid off, with the exception of the '31 class which was cut a third. While they have kept these men, those of the '29 class are receiving the same salary as those of the '30 class.

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2. (Continued)

I have no fear of losing my present job for some time as the Department is quite busy. We have been putting in two hours a day over time and, from all indications, this will continue for another month and a half or more.

Early last Spring, I felt rather prosperous one Saturday afternoon and went in to look at some used cars. Consequently, I've been driving a 1928 red Cabriolet Chevorlette since. It is giving me very good service and I've been able to get around much more.

Took a trip down through Kentucky and saw the famed "Brier Hoppers", but did not have any of their much more famous Kentucky moon-shine. However, I think it would have been possible had one been so inclined.

Took my vacation the last week of August and the first week of September and spent it back in Iowa. I did not get up to Iowa City as I had planned. My time being taken up with visiting, eating and fishing.

Joined the A. S. M. E. the early part of the year. They have a local chapter here but it has been quite inactive for the past few years.

Now any of you who are married or otherwise and are interested in getting an electric refrigerator, just drop me a line and I'll give you the low down and then tell you the best one to buy.

Here's hoping that 1932 will be a prosperous year to you all.

Sincerely/yours,

Milford A. Bergsten  
(Bergie.)

1518 Pennsylvania Ave.,  
Detroit, Michigan,  
January 10, 1932

Dear Gang:

Word has been sent me to the effect that it is time to get Old Sitting Bull to do his standing-up exercises, so here goes for the plunge --

I am still with the Detroit Edison at the Connors Creek Plant. For the first part of the year we continued running condenser tests and even had the privilege of going to the other plants to conduct tests of a similar nature.

When this work was finished I started on my Junior Engineer training. I first went to the Boiler Room, where I worked as an operator for five months and the job I liked best was hooking and cleaning the fires at night.

My next move was to the Condenser Room, and after two months was transferred to auxiliaries, upon which I am working at the present time. I have two more departments to go through, turbine operation and switchboard operation.

Last week we started a test to find the critical vibrations of the foundation of No. 8 turbine. This test is supposed to take about six months and promises to be very interesting. At present we are taking microscopic movements to determine constance so the equasions can be figured. Plans are being made now to install four vibrators so that we can vibrate the turbine foundation.

To date they have not begun work on their new plant but the plans now are to make the capacity 450,000 k.w. and use 90,000 k.w. turbines.

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The old job is all that I expected it to be, and I like it very much.

I should be through with my course in about another year and it seems possible that the new plant should be well under way by that time, so I believe my future shouldn't be so bad.

Detroit is still the old likeable place in which to live and as yet I haven't had a longing for the old state and its tall corn.

Sincerely yours,

C. H. Clark

Postscript:

I see by the papers we had a Southern Gentleman in our class and didn't know it.

Dallas, Texas  
January 4, 1932

Dear Fellows:

Wallie informs me that it is time to get buisy and put out the material for the annual Bull Session. Yes, I am glad to do this because I am sure anxious to hear what the rest of the fellows are doing.

I feel far away down here in the lone star state and there aren't many engineers here either. This is the best state in the union to hear the Texans tell it but I am not convinced yet. The whole thing is different from what I am accustomed to. There is plenty of sand, cotton, and cactus but very little of the corn, trees, and hills that I have been used to. The climate is supposed to be ideal but it has been all wet since I have been here. The girls have fur coats but I don't know why; we haven't had any freezing weather yet.

I was just enjoying myself enough in Kansas City and then someone started playing checkers and I found myself down here. No, Dallas doesn't compare with Kansas City but Procter & Gamble have a nice plant here. It is an edible plant and makes only Crisco etc. The cotton seed oil is purchased locally refined, and hardened so that it can be used for making salad oils and cooking compounds.

The mechanical department of course finds its usual problems of keeping the plant running and doing any construction work that is necessary. Aside from having to run the mechanical department I am also responsible for the operation and costs on power, steam, refrigeration, vegetable oil heating, and water supply. We have about 7500 H.P. max. boiler capacity, about 700 K.W. electrical capacity, and about 175 tons refrigerating capacity. The steam and power problems give me very little uneasiness because I am familiar with them but this refrigeration was all theory to me until about three months ago. The system was first installed as a direct expansion job and later changed to a brine system and of course, like most conversion jobs, it could be better. None of the installations mentioned are very large but they can give plenty of trouble. They are not making the product manufactured for sale and hence the process and production supervisors always say that the engineering supervisor and his costs are responsible for their high figures. This is always a subject for argument. It is also necessary for stand-by equipment to be in good shape. If steam and power are off for a minute the whole plant is down and the possibility of ruining the stock in process is very great.

I realize that the above does not tell what I do but any engineer can see what there is to do. There is no immediate source of information; when something goes wrong I do what I think is right; if my guess was right all is O.K. but if it was wrong explanation is difficult. The more good guesses you make and the lower costs you can have the better man you are. It is quite difficult to do a good job cheap down here because the number of skilled laborers seems to be less than up north-too many of them are direct from the cotton patch.

For the benefit of the military students I might say that I have been transferred to the 315 Eng. S.C.A. San Antonio Texas. We go to troop school once each week and usually ride with the 112 Cavalry on Sunday. I am intending to go to camp down on the Rio Grande this summer. The boys tell me it is a great place - just across the border is Mexico and not far to Monterrey.

It would sure be nice to get back to Iowa City again. I am wondering if the Mech. Class of '30 will have its picture in the new Laboratory when it is completed. I guess we can leave that to Wallie Nelson who has done so well with the Bull Session. I am waiting for the even better issue of 1932.

Here's to the scattered Mech. Class of '30

As ever,

*Earl Davis*

706 Hazelwood Ave., Apt. No. 100,  
Detroit, Michigan, December 30, 1931

Dear Fellows:-

I guess the best place to begin this letter is where the last one left off - so here goes.

From December 1, 1930 to April 15, 1931 I was placed in the Mechanical Engineering Division of the Research Department of the Detroit Edison Company. While in this division I was given some quite varied engineering experience. I helped on two power plant condenser tests, worked on an air compressing system investigation and on a few other jobs of like nature. My chief purpose tho was to make mechanical acceptance tests and write reports on different materials which were to be purchased. All tests were made according to The Detroit Edison Co. Purchasing Dept. Test Code; this code is the A. S. T. M. code with a few variations. This work was interesting for a while but it got to be an old story. The benefit I derived from it besides report writing experience, was some idea of what could be expected of different materials in service, and how various materials used by a Utility Company could and should be tested.

Some time in April, about the fifteenth as nearly as I can recall, I was temporarily removed from the laboratory. My work since then has been to make engineering investigations for the Power Sales Department exclusively. So far I have been concerned mainly with testing process furnaces of all kinds, sizes, shapes and types. Complete engineering reports are then prepared from data collected on conditions as found considering; heat distribution, time required per charge, quality of product produced, condition of equipment, operating methods employed, efficiency, etc. Recommendations for improvements, where possible, are also included in the report. On the strength of some of these recommendations four electric drying ovens have been completely redesigned and the quality of the product produced in an electric hardening furnace was improved by changing the method of operation employed. These tests are all made without charge to the customer.

This work takes me into many of Detroit's leading Industrial plants where I get a liberal education in production methods first hand. It also allows me a considerable amount of freedom, which, of course, I enjoy. A Ford Sedan is furnished for transportation that I am permitted to use in the evenings and on week ends in carrying on my "philandering". This also adds to the attractiveness of the job. My criticism of this work is that I am idle quite a bit of the time.

This job is being done for the Power Sales Dept. but I am not connected with that department, and have not been given any definite reason to believe that I am headed toward that goal. However, I am doing everything I can to qualify for a PowerSales Position. I have had one interview with the Senior Salesman, but I dont know what I accomplished, if anything.

Power Sales work is my certain choice: the more I learn about it; the more I like it.

I am interested in two night school courses at present; one is a course in Business Administration sponsored by the Edison company; the other is a course in Salesmanship conducted by a Sales School here. This course included a special treatise on Power Sales work which is prepared by the General Electric Co. After I complete these two courses I intend to concentrate on Thermodynamics and Electrical Engineering. I am at least trying harder than I ever have before in my life.

I believe that by getting all set for a Power Sales position and keeping the Senior Salesman informed regarding my preparations, I will get off to a running start in his department when business opens up. At least I am hopeful.

Enough shop talk.

I had a very enjoyable vacation last September 1 - 14. I saw the new Mechanical Engineering laboratory under construction and was very much surprised at its size. It is to be much larger than I had expected.

I have been visited twice by Hamil in the last six months. We had two real "get-togethers". I have also been visited by Joe Crookham and Dean Ten Eyck. We, too, had nice visits.

If any of you fellows are ever in Detroit call the Employment Bureau of Detroit Edison and find out how and where to locate me. I move often. Even if you are just here between trains you can at least give me a "buzz".

I have heard of Nelson's tough break via the circular notice he sent us. All I can say is that it is a damn shame, but due to present conditions it is beyond his or anyone else's control, and the world knows that.

With very best personal regards to all of you, I will desist so you may read the next letter.

Yours very truly,

PEARL I. HARDWICK

P.S. Just had a chat with Gordon Heylin, The Detroit Edison Representative; he asked to be remembered to Mr. Croft and all other Faculty Members and students whom he met at Iowa. He too is anxious to hear of the present status of the class.

1653 Hering Av.,  
Bronx, N. Y.

Dear Classmates:

It certainly is splendid to be able to join you all in this yearly round-up and to swap tales of our experiences. This past year has been a slow moving one for me. I am still connected with the Bell Telephone Laboratories doing design work on radio equipment, slowly working in the routine and watching the mountain labor and the mouse being born. For a while the monotony nearly got me and mental stagnation began to set in. To prevent this, I started a few hours of graduate work at Columbia University. The stimulation was pleasantly astonishing. It was a mental tonic. It really peps one up. I prescribe it as a sure cure for the drabness caused by slow moving routine if any of you fellows are so afflicted.

This business depression, the bottom of which we have now reached, may be a blessing in disguise, especially if we accept depressions as periodical occurrences, for it has hit us before we have been firmly established. It is better to slip off the first rung of the ladder than to fall from the top. It is teaching us to watch out for the pitfalls when we will be in command-pitfalls that our present leaders seem to be using as places of refuge. Mass production seems to have passed through its undisciplined and unmoral youth. It rushed onward blindly but now exhausted it must rest and wonder where it is and where it is going. Tomorrow, it will start as a wiser and more matured individual, guided by ethical, economic and philosophical principles-principles that will make humanity the end rather than the means of industry. It may even learn the value of leisure.

I am still a bachelor but am going with a girl in Chicago; the one who prevented me from getting to class on time at Iowa. During the past year we have covered over 10,000 miles in trips between New York and Chicago. So as soon as this depression is over I intend to settle down many many miles from a railroad station.

Very truly,

*W. J. McLarney*  
W. J. McLarney.

Port Byron, Illinois  
Jan. 17, 1932

Dear Friends:

Nineteen thirty two is here, and it is time that we take an inventory of our class and of ourselves. The M.E. 30,s of Iowa have stood firm and erect under the fire of business depression. It is true that I have taken one hard blow on the chin, but am back in the fray with more courage and justified determination than ever before. The tone of your written thoughts has changed a great deal during the last year. Mature seasoned veterans twenty five years of age have dutifully accepted their responsibilities.

Roberts and Schaefer Co. tried hard to keep me on a pay-roll, but finally after exhausting thier sales field and odd jobs around the Wrigley Building, they were forced to send me into the ranks of the unemployed. August the twenty fourth found me at home again on the farm with my Dad, Mether, and Sis. Of course I felt very blue and entertained all the bitter thoughts that occur to an energetic untried man, tied hand and foot.

A month of restlessness were me down to common sense and reason. October and November were spent quietly and thoughtfully. The blue line print following this letter will give you an idea of my activities in December. A young men,s group, a young women,s group, and our mail project furnished me with practical experience in organizing people, thoughts, and efforts.

On Christmas day our high school principal passed away. One of the members of the faculty was advanced to the principalship, and I was appointed to carry on the instruction of mathematics and science. Semester examinations have just been administered, and I am organizing a program of study for Algebra, Geometry, Physics, and Business Law. What ever you do don,t send any information to my pupils concerning my ability in these several fields. You know that we are pals; new are,nt we? Mail pals to boot.

Next time you move please send me the news. It takes lots of patience to wait you fellows out. The 1932 letter will be started in December. Thanks for the fine letters and the cash.

Thank you Mr. Wright for your valuable contribution to our booklet. Men of your forceful well expressed thoughts merit a place among the leaders of our profession. We, who are young and untrained, can pick big wood from little wood.

Mr. Barnes furnished the negetive for the picture on the cover. Every one of the 30,s appreciate the advantages of this fine laboratory, and feel that the Mechanical Engineering Department of the State University of Iowa deserves such equipment.

Continued GG000DD LLUUCCKK to all of you.

Sincerely,

Walter E. Nelson

**BOOSTER CLUB  
PLAN OUTLINED  
AT PORT BYRON**

**CALL MEETING  
OF PORT BYRON  
YOUNG PEOPLE**

**PLAN CHAMBER  
FOR YOUNG MEN  
AT PORT BYRON**

*Port Byron Clubs  
Plan for Weekly  
Radio Broadcasts*

**PORT BYRON MEN  
TO HEAR LYDICK**

*Young Men's Club  
of Port Byron Is  
to Meet Tonight*

*Young People of  
Port Byron Plan  
New Organization*

**Nelson Chosen  
As New Teacher  
At Port Byron**

*Moline Men Are  
Speakers Before  
Port Byron Club*

*Younger Men of  
Port Byron Are  
To Be Organized*  
Moline Dispatch

*Port Byron Club  
Has Dinner Meet;  
Program Is Given*

*Young People of  
Port Byron Plan  
New Organization*

*Young Women's Club  
To Broadcast on Air*

**PORT BYRON GROUP TO  
GIVE RADIO BROADCAST**

*Young People Hold  
Port Byron Banquet*

January 10, 1931

Dear Classmates and Teachers:

It doesn't seem possible, does it fellows, that another Class Letter time has rolled around? Last year we were the seniors of "last year", but now we have joined the rank and file of graduates ----the class of '30. The little impressions we made, the little distinctions we gained are fast being forgotten. Thenceforth the year will roll on while as a class we will slip deeper into obscurity. Of course, some will distinguish themselves in one way or another, but the majority of us must be content to fill our niche in life. It is in those years to follow that we will look forward to the old "Mechanical Bull Session". Let us hope that we can continue its issuance until, as the years pass on, it will be of real value to us.

Personally, the last year has been somewhat uneventful. However, I must not forget the one important event. In May of last year I joined the great army of those who promise to "love honor and obey", and by this time have become rather accustomed to the roll of dutiful husband.

In the line of my work I have neither gone forward or back. I've been shifted into three different lines of work since the last writing, and have barely had an opportunity to familiarize myself with one thing before being shifted to another. For the last six months I've been working on step by step (Dial) equipment. Its very interesting and if I continue until I really know something about what I'm doing, I'll probably be at it for the next fifty years. I'm satisfied, though, because the work is interesting and I'm learning something new every day.

I wish I could grasp each of you by the hand and say, "Hello Lawrence, Bergie, Clarence, Earl, Cecil, Hardwick, Kenny, McLarney, Mouglin, Wally, Sang, Rocky,

Mr. Croft and Mr. Barnes. Howaryah. I'm looking forward to reading each of your letters and hope that none of you fail to contribute."

Good-by until next year

Sincerely,

(Signed)

*Mark Plumly*

111-13th St. S. E.,  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

430 So. Sixth St.,  
DeKalb, Illinois,  
January 11, 1932.

Classmates:

Time for another issue of The Mechanicals' "Bull Session", in fact, almost past time. It seems only a few short days since I labored over my first contribution. But I imagine these past twelve months, so quickly gone, have been quite eventful for most of that class of 1930.

As to my own personal experiences, I can't see that anything of unusual importance has occurred during the last year. What little progress I have made seems to have been in a reverse direction. My job here remains practically unchanged, since I haven't as yet attained a position of any great responsibility and am still wearing overalls to work. My salary is one thing that has changed some, a ten percent reduction having been imposed on the first of last November. This reduction had one consoling feature in that it was applied to all salaries from the president's down to the night watchman's. I'm really not so much worried about the president, though. I've even managed to lose a little money in a bank failure. But I can't complain, I'm still making a decent living and having some fun besides.

Well, I got up at five o'clock this morning to get this letter written, and it is now time to go to work so will have to leave the rest unsaid, which wouldn't be much. I sincerely hope that another year will find none of us "singing the blues".

I have at least had the satisfaction this last year of having been able to use my engineering education to considerable advantage, and believe I shall never regret the time spent in gaining that education.

Wishing you all more of success during the coming year,  
I remain,

Your friend and classmate,

K. H. Sanger.

6547 Union Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois  
January 2, 1931

Dear Gang,

Another year posted on the books of time. In retrospect its been a hectic as well as a joyous year for me. Made me sort of sit up and take notice of some of the every day things that occur. Hope it has done some good. So much for personal philosophy, -- better get down to the business of writing my autobiography for the year 1931. "Are ya lissenen?"

When the last installment of this yellow sheet was printed, I was still absorbin' the rudiments of the game and peddlin' my wares at the Western Electric Company, (See Installment 1).

Continued the process of give and take until one bright and shiny morning in the latter part of May, the boss called me in and told me that business conditions were bad, (as though I didn't know it,) and remarked that the younger men were being asked to take a leave of absence. Now I ask you, could I refuse the poor fellow? I could see his heart was breaking so rather than watch him endure such agony, I walked out of his presence and turned my back upon the pearly gates of that large institution, consoled by the fact that Lady Fortune smiled on me for a little while after doing my best to please her.

I next joined up with Grigsby-Grunow Company, Chicago, manufacturers of Majestic Radios. Stayed there three months and organized the radio mechanical development section. Went go into details with regard to conditions existing there. Let it be sufficient to say that I quit the job during the worst of the depression.

A free man again with no sure prospects for another position. Went home for two weeks. Came back to Chicago and the next day lined up with my present employers, the Jensen Radio Manufacturing Company, Chicago, manufacturers of quality radio speakers for internationally known radio sets. The Jensen Plant employs from three hundred to five hundred persons and manufactures two thousand speakers per day.

My present position is that of Industrial Engineer and Assistant to the Superintendent. My work is to supervise and install wage incentive plans; install cost accounting systems; Utilize our present production methods most effectively, and if necessary revise them for more efficient operation. Frankly, I have met with considerable success. Possibly I have found my element.

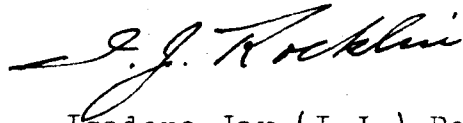
January 3, 1931

-2-

Was back to school for homecoming. Would like to have seen more of you fellows there. I'd give my eye-teeth for another one of those bull-sessions we so often held in the senior mechanical's room. Bring on the dentist and his chair and we'll make it next homecoming. How about it?

My closing wish is that each one of you fellows have given, or will give old man depression a good swift kick right square in the seat of his pants. His act's over and its time for the hook. Good luck Gang.

Your classmate



Isadore Jay (I.J.) Rocklin

Parlin, N. J.  
January 23, 1932

Dear Wally,

I just came to the realization that I had promised to have my letter off to you by the 18th and I'm a week late. Also I'm rather upset. You see I just received a telegram telling me of Al Clement's death; one who we all loved so well, who was both father and guide while we were in school there. I sincerely regret that I can not be present for the last parting with Al, but my thoughts will be there every hour, every moment of the time. We shall all miss him, especially at Homecoming.

I'm afraid this will be a short letter because I haven't much to tell that is new. I've been here at Parlin for a year now and have got a lot more experience. This is the original Duco plant, another being in Flint Michigan which is much more carefully planned as a result of the pioneering here. We also make guncotton, nitrocotton, dynamite cotton and film cotton. In addition, the bulk of the solvents for the manufacture of Duco is made here, -ethyl acetate, iso-butal acetate, and a host of others. The DuPont-Pathe Film Corporation is here too, although it is quite separated from the Parlin plant, as they have a separate management and personnel. If you ever see a Pathe or Warner Bros. picture it is made with film manufactured here. Also if you have seen Admiral Byrd's pictures of his expedition to the South Pole, it too was taken on film made here, an extreme test of quality, having crossed the equator twice and subjected to extreme heat and cold.

Since coming here I've had lots of different jobs. I've learned quite a bit more about chemistry, especially distillation and rectification. My strong suit is power however, and I've had a wealth of experience in whooping the efficiency in steam and power generation equipment. It is much easier to do the job than it is to find out how much money was saved by having done it, which of course we must do. Our division is the only one in the company that has to justify its existence by actual savings. And it does.

I had a little tough luck which may or may not alter progress for a time. I was forceably reminded last summer that I had a stomach ulcer. After many preliminaries of x-rays, "egzeminations" (who used to say that) and what-not, coupled with some pretense at working, it was decided that I take a leave of absence and a complete rest for about two months. It was suggested that I go to Detroit where my brother is practicing medicine and have another going over by a specialist which he would decide upon. The outcome of it was that I spent two weeks in Henry Ford's hospital in Detroit, four weeks at home and two more weeks in Detroit again for final surveillance, making a total of eight weeks away from work. All of this time I was receiving full salary and company insurance, as well as written inquiries from my superiors as to my condition. I feel that no other company

in this country would have done any better. I'm still on a diet. I can't eat meat, raw vegetables, fresh fruits or even soups made with meat stock, but am getting along as well as can be expected and perhaps in another year if I stick to my diet I'll come around ok again.

While in Detroit, both on my way home and on my way back I had a good visit with Hardwick. I'd like to have visited Iowa City but didn't feel enough like it.

I'm rather close to New York and get over quite often. I've seen many of the show hits and the dazzel of Broadway. Have been to the top of the tallest building in the world and thought of you, Wally, and your prize-winning A. S. M. E. paper while riding in the elevator. I went over to Princeton the other night to go ice-skating in the indoor rink they have there and who should I meet on the street but Monroe and his wife. He graduated in the 1930 chem. engineering class. He told me he was taking graduate work in chemistry at Princeton and I can tell you it was certainly a delightful surprise to meet someone from Iowa like that. I'm going over again sometime and we'll have a real session.

Well, I don't have much more to write about. I hope that these hard times have not hit too many of our bunch. I've seen good men turned off here, too, during the past year. Things surely ought to pick up again soon. If they don't we can migrate.

I hope the rest of the bunch were more prompt in getting their letters to you and I'm sorry if I kept you waiting. With a cheer and a handclasp for each member of the faculty and class of 1930, I am,

Yours fraternally,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kenney". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Yours fraternally,".