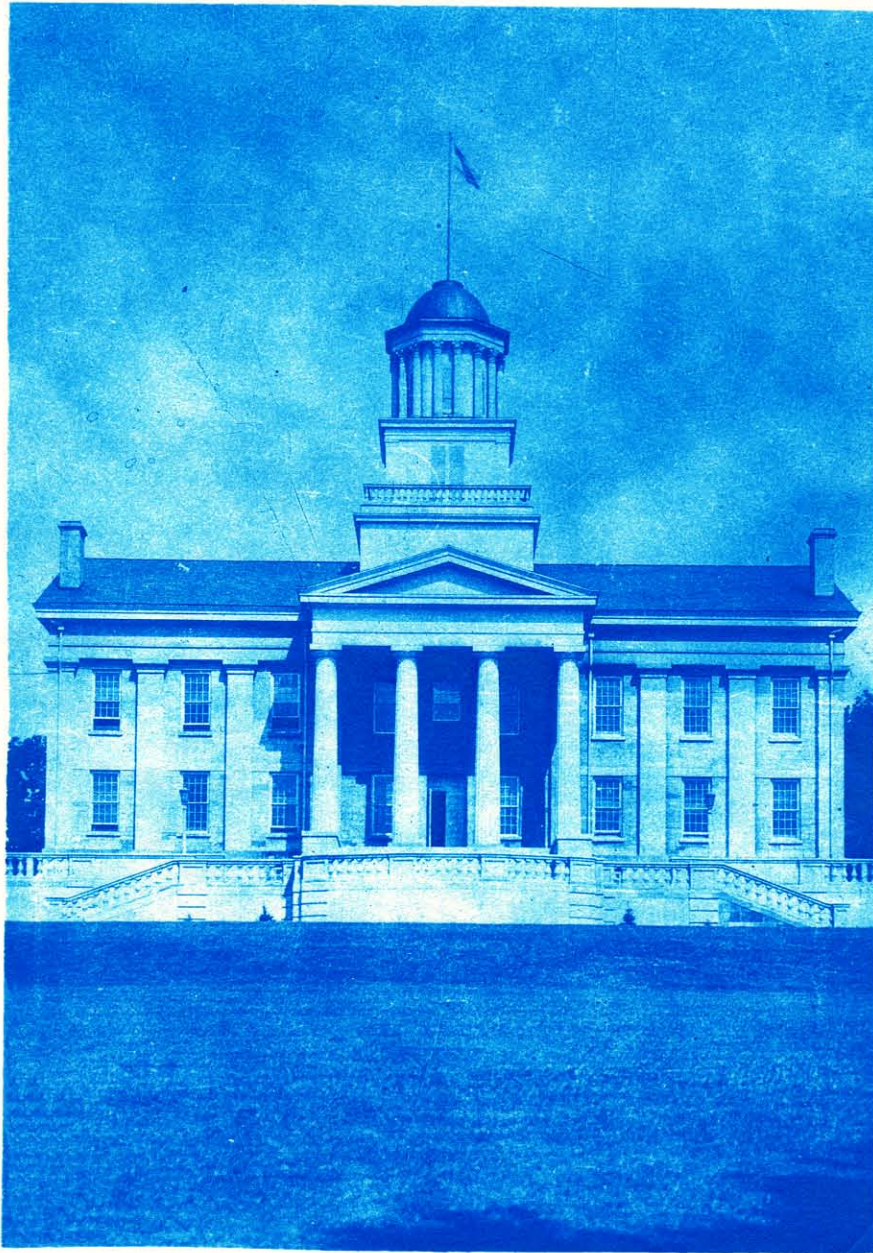


The

MECHANICAL'S BULL-SESSION

19



32

CLASS of '30

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

Members of the Class of 1930:

I wish to take this opportunity to extend the greetings of the Staff to each member of the Class of 1930, and to assure each of you, that we are most anxious to offer our services in any way which might be helpful.

Personal correspondence has been received from Nelson, Allen, and Rockland, and no doubt but what other members of the Department have heard from others in the class. However, we wish you would all keep in touch with us rather than a few. We are intensely interested in the welfare and progress of each of you.

There have been no changes in the staff during the last year. Mr. Barnes has been on leave the First Semester to complete his Doctor's Degree at Cornell, but will be back the Second Semester to resume his responsibilities. Mr. Keller has assumed Mr. Barnes' duties temporarily and has continued to do excellent work with the State Board of Engineer Examiners. Mr. Caywood is now teaching Internal Combustion Engines and is revamping his design courses. Mr. O'Brien is extremely busy putting the new shop in order and revamping the underclass shop work. Mr. Fielding is revising his work to emphasize heat-treating and welding rather than forging. Mr. Ekstrand now has too much light in the Wood Products Laboratory located on the top floor of the new building, but he retains his cheerful philosophy and kindly manner. Mr. Thoren is busy working out new experiments in the Power Laboratory for undergraduate instruction and compiling a laboratory manual. Your old friend, Mr. Putnam, is busier than ever trying to keep ahead with new experimental set-ups.

The new laboratory is now completed and being used one-hundred per cent. There will probably be a complete description with photographs in the technical literature in the near future.

The number of graduate students continues to increase now that we have a more suitable place in which to work and new equipment for experimental projects.

During the past year, two Ford cards and a Ford, V-8 engine; a "Terraplane" engine, and several interesting display boards, have been received by the department as donations. Needless to say, if any of you are in a position to bring about similar donations from the company by which you are employed, we will be most appreciative.

The Student Branch of the A.S.M.E. has been reorganized, and those who wish to spend the money, now receive "Mechanical Engineering regularly. The Student Branch will now send a delegate to the annual convention.

May I again express the thought that we wish you many good things for the New Year, and hope that we may hear often from all of you,

Sincerely yours,

Huber O. Croft
Head of the Department.

Iowa City, Iowa
January 28, 1933

To the Class of 1930:

Our thoughts are again turned as they have been many times this past year to the boys of the Class of 1930. You are fortunate in that you were not graduated a year or two later so far as getting located in engineering work at the time of graduation is concerned. Few of the boys of the Class of 1932 were able to establish themselves in any kind of engineering work. A goodly number returned to the college this year for additional work to be the better prepared when economic conditions improve.

The most important development this year in the Department has been in the new Mechanical Laboratory. Most of the old equipment is now permanently connected and some new equipment is installed. A new V-8 Ford motor is on a display stand just inside the west entrance to the laboratory. A new terraplane motor was donated to the department this year by the Hudson Motor Company and has been on test this semester. The old Diesel engine is now completely installed and was operated for the first time in the new laboratory a few days ago.

Last year a graduate student designed and built a clutch testing machine as a portion of his work for the Masters degree. Additional tests on this machine are being conducted this year by another graduate student.

To those of the class who are not at present satisfactorily located in engineering work, it should be kept in mind that many engineers of experience are temporarily out of employment through no fault of theirs and you should not be discouraged at this time. If you can take full note of the times through which we are passing, you should be the more able to direct men and affairs when your opportunity comes as it will in time. We are always glad to hear from you especially if you are not engaged in engineering work at the time, and of course any time you are in town we expect you to drop in for a friendly chat.

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

Yours very truly,


Thos. G. Caywood.

DEPARTMENT OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
The State University of Iowa
Iowa City

107 Engineering Bldg.
January 17, 1933

Mechanical Engineering Class of 1930:

It has been my lot to travel around some during the past eight months and I have met Iowa engineers in almost every place I have stopped. The majority of the group seemed to be making the most of the present situation and looked with considerable optimism towards better days to come.

I have been on a leave of absence from the University during the first semester and have had the good fortune of being able to do some research work in special phases of Industrial Engineering under a grant from the du Pont educational research fund. I made studies in present practices and trends through visits to selected industries in New York City, Schenectady, Fort Wayne, Pittsburgh and Detroit. My more theoretical work was done in the plant of the Corona Typewriter Company at Groton, New York where skilled factory operators and actual manufacturing equipment were placed at my disposal.

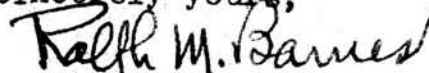
My experimental work was confined to the subject of time and motion study and I used the motion picture technique for making the measurements. Special Eastman Kodak motion picture apparatus was used and the facilities of Cornell University laboratories made an ideal set up for my work.

Carrying on an extended experimental investigation is so much fun that I do not wonder that more and more engineers are returning for graduate work.

Our new Mechanical Laboratory is completed and we are very proud of it. Professor Croft has done an excellent job in spite of many difficulties due to the lack of funds.

Wishing you the greatest success throughout the year, I am

Sincerely yours,



Ralph M. Barnes

Associate Professor of Industrial Engineering

January 4, 1933

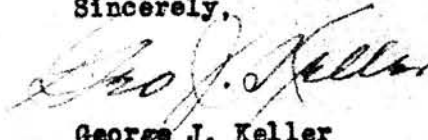
Mr. Wallace E. Nelson,
Cordova, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Nelson:

I am glad to hear from you again and above all pleased to know that you are on a pay-roll. It is to be hoped that the 1932 Mechanical Bull-Session will reveal that the other members of your class are also on the receiving end of a salary pass.

It is also to be hoped that this is the last "bread and butter" Bull-Session. Surely with Bureau-crats fading out of the picture and Techno-crats and Democrats springing in some good will result. Of course, we still have our pessimists but we can't help that. We shouldn't expect Babson to agree with Scott. Neither should we Democrats expect applause from our Republican friends. But, if we Democrats "together stick 'em" there will be plenty of prosperity for all in 1933.

Sincerely,



George J. Keller

THE NEXT LETTER WAS DIFFICULT TO READ IN THE ORIGINAL BLUEPRINT AND NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE TO READ IN THE DIGITAL COPY. A TRANSCRIPT, THEREFORE, WAS MADE FROM THE ORIGINAL AND IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWS THE LETTER IN QUESTION.

Albion, Iowa
January 24, 1933

Dear Classmates,

This past year has been a wonderful one in every way. I have enjoyed great prosperity and contentment and feel sure that every member of the class has done likewise. I trust that you all share my conviction that 1933 will be still better.

Well, I had to get all those lies off my chest even if the election is over. I suggested to Wallace last summer that we make this letter a sort of sobriety contest. He seemed unable to summon any great amount of enthusiasm for the idea, and no wonder, the lucky stiff having just landed a job as instructor at a salary that would look to most of us like part of the national debt just now.

May I suggest that those of you who still retain engineering "positions" extend your sympathy to the rest of us. In return for the use of your shoulders to weep on, we will offer ours to all who are dissatisfied with present salaries and future prospects.

Passing through Iowa City about 4:15 last Friday I stopped long enough to pass the time of day with Prof's. Davis and Caywood and also Mary Sheed, and Norma Englert. I was sorry to be too late to meet any of the other instructors, but expect to be there some time this spring.

At the time of my last writing, I believe I was selling city maps in or near Roll, Wood, leaving there about February 1st. I worked the cities in the Imperial valley just above the Mexican line. During the time I was there I made several interesting trips across the line.

About April 1st I went to Cincinnati and worked until June 1st on a map of that city. I spent the month of June and a little of July, training and retraining beginning map salesmen at a salary and commission which seemed about like old times. Since then until about a week ago I have been selling maps in Southern Ohio, making headquarters first at Wilmington and later at Portsmouth.

February 5th I start work at Newton, Iowa, selling memberships in the U. S. Chamber of Commerce on a commission basis. It is only a temporary job I hope and I haven't yet become too pessimistic to look forward to the time when I can get back into engineering, preferably the sales department of some large manufacturer of air conditioning equipment. At present I must admit I have no very live leads.

My family holds its own. Larry Jr. is now more than two years old and not having inherited my own reticence he talks all the time.

I would be mighty glad to hear from any of you who will write. My own address changes occasionally but mail will always be forwarded to Albion, Iowa.

Wishing everyone the very best of luck, I am,
Yours sincerely,
Larry Allen

[TRANSCRIPTION OF ORIGINAL]

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I would be mighty glad to hear from any of you who will write. My own address changes occasionally but mail will always be forwarded to me from Albion, Iowa.

Wishing everyone the very best of luck, I am

Yours sincerely,
Larry Allen

Mediapolis, Iowa,
January 24, 1933.

Dear Classmates of '30 and Friends:

I've lived up to one of my old ideas, that of not staying with the same firm for more than two years after graduation, but the change didn't take place as I had planned. Just the same old story Frigidaire was hard hit so we received two weeks pay in advance and their best wishes. So since the first of May I have either been hunting jobs or helping Dad in the store, with the exception of ten weeks that I put in as a machine man on hard road construction late in the fall. It only paid forty cents an hour for thirty hours a week but it was good experience and I know a great deal more about sub-grade work and the handling of a crew, also just how stubborn and tricky a caterpillar tractor can be.

At present I have nothing especially interesting to look forward to in the way of a job. Have been working on several possible positions, have even tried politics but with no success. Have several promises tho if times get better one of which is back to my old place, but I'm not anxious to go back or to go with any of the General Motor subsidiaries, altho a job is a job now and any one will do.

Am still single and no prospects. I want to impress that on your mind for ther was an unfounded rumor floating around that I was married but no one seemed to know when or to whom.

Business has been plenty slow in the implement game too so I've spent a good bit of my spare time on the river hunting and fishing and have had good luck most of the time. But I won't tell you about the big ones.

Here's wishing you all a prosperous year from a depression struck Mechanical.

As ever,

Bergie
Bergie.

4801 Newport Avenue
Detroit, Michigan
January 18, 1933

Dear Gang:

So this is the third letter and the beginning of the third year. I must say I wish that something drastic would happen -- either that things would pick up or shut down altogether. The suspense of the entire affair is rather tiring to the youngster who thought he would set the world on fire.

I suppose I should consider myself lucky as I was very fortunate and received a job with a very good company. To be sure I have been cut and work only five days a week, but I feel rather happy when I get my weekly pay check and see that I still earn more than when I started with the company.

This year has not been as eventful as others, but I have been kept busy finishing my course and running tests. Probably the most interesting test I have worked on since I have been with the company was completed this year at Delray Station.

The company purchased a 10,000 K. W. 400# pressure and 1000° F. Turbine from British Thompson Company of England, so as a result there has been a considerable amount of testing.

During 1931 the company installed a chlorination plant for the condenser water, so naturally as 1932 is just over, Conley, (another student), and I are making an engineering report of the saving. The only trouble we encounter in this type of work is in getting the operating data to check. If you don't believe me, try it some day yourself.

Our plant is slowly being rebuilt, but it will take considerable time if conditions don't hurry and get better. One thing that should help Detroit in the future is the new St. Lawrence Waterway and naturally the Public Utilities.

I happened to take a Heating and Ventilating Course in school and thought it would never do me any good, but Lo and Behold! - my next job is to see how much it will cost to heat the Edison Boat Club with electricity, so you see one can never tell. Some day I may be able to use one of Barnes' courses.

Henry Ford is having a tough time making a living, so I decided to buy a new Ford to help the Old Boy along. I have often wondered since if he would do the same for me if I found myself in a tough spot.

I see Hardwick quite often now that he has his new job, but would like to have the rest of the gang drop in some day.

Sincerely,

C. H. Clark

Parlin, N. J.
Jan. 20, 1933

Dear Gang,

Well, here is 1933 and we are still struggling to keep ahead of the ax. I am certainly anxious to hear how all of you made out this last year and hope that you have been fortunate in your work. This year has been such a busy one for me that I haven't had much time to think of the old school, the old friends and classmates; to remember happenings, good times, troubles and successes. This year the Class Letter is going to look pretty good to me, I can tell you, and I guess it was intended for just that purpose. So that we would be brought back at least once a year to surroundings, friends and remembrances which have had a very definite part in our training for life.

The last letter that I wrote told of having a sick spell, a leave of absence, a diet for the bum stomach with a hole in the wrong place and general despair. I was very careful with my diet that the doctor had recommended and adhered to it to the letter. For about a year and a half I haven't eaten meat, raw fruits, raw vegetables or soups made with meat stock. I had an examination in Detroit this December again and he reported that I was on the road to recovery. The ulcer is almost all healed up and without leaving a scar so now I can eat a little more. A lamb chop once a week and occasionally an orange seems like a picnic to me now. I still have the belly ache but it is a relief to know that it is nothing to get alarmed about any more. I am now a healthy normal person again, able to take my knocks with the rest of them, with no equivocation and you don't know what a relief it is, too.

I was home this year for the Christmas holidays, the first time since I left school and I saw quite a few of the fellows that I knew at Iowa. I saw Pearl Hardwick in Detroit and had a short session with him. I also saw Al Cummins at home and he came over and stayed overnight so that we had a real good visit. In Chicago on my way back here, who should I run into but Vandecar who was passing through there at the same time. We didn't have much time to visit but it certainly did seem good to see someone that has been in Iowa City very recently to learn all of the news.

You know what I would like to see. All of the class and instructors that can meet in Chicago next summer during the Worlds Fair. There are probably a lot of us that are planning to go the the fair anyway so why not make plans to be there all at the same time. I know that we will get together Homecoming of 1935 but that is a long time from now and too long to wait. What do you all think of the idea? There will be excursion rates to Chicago so it hadn't ought to be so very expensive and believe me that is going to be one great spectacle. I'm going to be there with bells on, probably with my dad. He was at the last one.

Allen I'll try to get that letter of yours answered soon. I haven't forgotten it. How are the wife and kiddie? The rest of you gang, I'll be eagerly waiting for information from you as given in your bully letters.

Yours until Roosevelt ends the depression,

Kenney

1653 Hering Ave.,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Classmates:

During the last summer the depression caught up with me. The Bell Laboratories went on a five day, then on a four day week. Finally they decided that they had done enough research for a while so they dumped out most of their engineers. And I was among the group that joined the army of unemployed. After dogging about town for a month looking for a job, I discovered that there were not any to be had and that I was wasting my time. So I resumed my school work at Columbia. I am now completing my last three semester hours in the evenings and I expect to obtain my M.A. in economics in February. After that time I will again become a full fledged member of the unemployed.

I do not know whether I have learned more from being out of work or from being in school. Between both of them I have learned the value that can be derived from an enforced leisure and the mental dangers that can arise out of unemployment. So I want to direct this letter especially to those of us who like myself are out of work. Unemployment affects both the body and the mind, the latter in a subtle manner. It can destroy the true prospectus of life. The mind can retrograde and everything that our education has given us can be lost. And from being unemployed we can become unemployable.

So may I offer a few ideas that have prevented me from developing a distorted view on life. Unemployment is cyclical in spite of what the technocrats say. The forced leisure will end. Thus it is for us to get as much out of it as possible while it lasts. The fortunate work all week for a few hours of it at the end of the week. So let us capitalize our leisure. I find that I can do this best by ignoring the existence of time. This creates a feeling of luxurious well being. In reading, one is permitted to approach the original sources for his information. He can watch the panoramic evolution of society. Without time one can listen to free concerts much better and study the techniques. A work of art can be enjoyed to a sufficiency. Conversation without a time limit becomes the art of solving the problems of the world over and over again, always in a different manner. Leisure permits us to continue our studies; for there is so much to know and so little known. Then when the depression is ended we can say that we have lived well after our own fashion.

With this sort of a philosophy, I go to the best concerts and shows, and hear quite well from the gallery. I chat with Messrs. Ricardo, Smith, Sophocles, Plato, Spinoza and others. I ignore such people as Wells and Durant because they are in too much of a hurry. Often I get together with other engineers of leisure and we solve the problems of the world. For example, the other day we

exhausted the limitations and advantages of the physical and social laws respectively, in the waiting room of the Grand Central Terminal. Hoarseness ended the debate.

And to those among us who are discouraged and think that they are out of a job on account of their own fault, may I cite the remark of a business executive as he looked at a hunger march "There go I but for the grace of God."

Sincerely,

W. J. McLarney
Bill McLarney

Riverside, Iowa.
January 15, 1933.

Dear Classmates:

Here I am again, after a lapse last year, writing to all of you for our scheme of keeping up relations, etc.

Yes I'm still living, single I mean, and right down here not far from Alma Mater on the old farm. Work, eat and sleep is my menu most of the time. Not so bad yet considering that if I lost out on any two of the above mentioned, it might be tough. Anyway they tell me the first hundred is the worst, so being out of engineering employment for one and a half years leaves me ninety-eight and a half years to go yet.

I'm not so sorry for the lay off thus far because life in the open has done me a lot of good. So now I feel like I could give it hell from here on in.

However, I'll not have much to tell you in this letter and I'm afraid Wally Nelson is going to cash in on this since he requested a little cash enclosed. Oh well I guess he deserves a lot more for all his trouble. I wonder who he tries to imitate Prof. Croft or Prof. Barnes standing up before a class. Never mind the rub, Wally, hang in there and don't mix too much philosophy in for those young minds.

In closing I'll say that I'll be glad to hear from any of you and will deeply appreciate any assistance you may have in getting me back into the engineering field of work.

I wish you all the best and hope this year will bring us all a more pleasant picture and lots of good news for our next session.

Your classmate,



John F. Mouglin.

Cordova, Illinois
February 4, 1933

Dear Friends:

It is a good thing for me that my dead-line doesn't kill, the above date would be suicide. I sent only one notice this year, and next year I'll cut out the waiting. We all know the procedure by now and should be able to put the Mechanical Bull Session into circulation on a three week's notice. I may call for a mid-year issue some time when prosperity has been taken out of the English vocabulary and work has been reestablished in its true light.

I taught school until May twentieth, then proceeded to spend my money in the following manner. First I went down to Mediapolis and visited Ergie; from his home I set out for Detroit and Canada. It was a great trip and lots of fun. I saw Hardwick but could not manage to run Clark down because of complications in time and transportation. A day or two after I had returned to Port Byron, who should appear but Lawrence Allen, congenial and welcome as ever. He wished me luck in my studies at Iowa. Eleven weeks of summer school placed me in the scoring zone as a high school teacher. The last day of the session found me headed north out of Iowa City. I spent my last week of vacation, the last of my money, and one thousand miles of my automobile while seeing friends in Wisconsin. Tired in body, happy in accomplishment, I took up my duties at Cordova High School on September fourth.

The school year has been busy and most interesting. I am presenting Algebra, Geometry, Physics, and Manual Training to a fine group of students.

I, too, would like to go on record with a few comments on this depression, the struggle of sales resistance versus salesmanship.

The old man and his operation. The United States and its good times. Pampered and humored men of leisure depended upon the drudgery of their fellow human beings. In their drunken stupor (drunk with riches and position) stupid policies in credit and luxurious production set the ulcer which has resulted in a national stomach ache. As all ills follow ills, this fundamental irregularity has caused aches and pains in all our branches of activity. One needs only to view the dailies to see evidence of a new and bitter difficulty breaking out on our afflicted Uncle Sam each new day.

I'll always blame golf and its "yes men" for this gulf of depression. On the greens, off the job. You can sell insurance

on the courses, but the result will be a greater need for insurance. Now we lack bonded assurance and its allies. The moral: Attend to your own business, and keep it humble or it will choke you.

The above paragraphs will no doubt cause some smiles to be grinned; at any rate my system needs just the purring that their phrasing supplied.

The year has brought to my mind most vividly the following slogan, "Many people succeed by being encouraged, but I admire the man who gets there in spite of hell." Yes, fellows, you can take that as meaning in spite of the world.

Don't misunderstand me! Old Uncle Sam is taking the count of ten just for the rest. His punch is still mighty and intact. We have our churches, our school system, our libraries, our banking lesson, our transportation facilities, our government for us, by, and of the people, and last but not least we have our Yankee ruggedness and resourcefulness. Our people will rub themselves and succeed in their venture. This economic stress is merely a test, and woe unto those men who aspire to the dictatorship of such a citizenship.

It isn't the work that we accomplish which fatigues us, but it is the shadow of the work undone which taxes the ability and capacity of men; and there lies our responsibility --- fellow young men.

We must start at scratch, inheriting only the resources that make men out of boys.

Just,

Wallace E. Nelson

Cedar Rapids, Iowa.
January 24, 1933

Classmates of '30:

Incredulously the time has again rolled around for the good old yearly get-together. I had completely forgotten about it when I received Wally's letter. When aroused, my brousing mind caused me to speculate on what each of you were doing and how you were faring in the old struggle until I'm very eager to read those interesting letters I know you will all have for me.

My chronologue for the last year has been very uneventful. Dial telephone work has claimed all my time. However it is far from uninteresting and there is nothing lacking in way of new things to learn. The multiplicity and intricacy of the equipment is puzzling enough to keep ones mind on edge most of the time. An idea of the equipment in even such a small office as this can be gotten when one finds from our recent equipment check which revealed something like 30 000 relays each carrying from three to sixteen contacts. If you've ever looked for a dirty contact in the ignition system of your car, you can imagine what we run up against every day. The sequence of opening and closing of contacts is held to within one one-thousandth of an inch and the operating current to within one milliampere.

About three hundred blue prints are necessary for reference in clearing trouble, for it is impossible to memorize the circuits other than knowing the general operating characteristics. To think I used to consider those "Thermo" problems hard. Perhaps my attitude is a little different now, and too, know I get "shekels" instead of grade points. No boys, I have very few bored or listless moments.

If you fellows haven't been bored as yet to the point of hastening to the next letter, I'm going to take this opportunity to thank you in advance for the most welcome and interesting letters you are going to write, and to wish this year will hold much in the way of success for you and any innocent persons whom you may now have involved with you.

Sincerely,



Mark Plumly.

216 Liberty Drive. S. E.

P.S.

Please note that any reference to classmates, guys, fellows, boy's, etc., are to be translated liberally as meaning faculty members as well as ex-classroom sonambulists.

3227 Jennings Street
Sioux City, Iowa
January 27, 1933

Dear Classmates and Teachers:

Another year on the books of time. What a year! To me, each year since graduation has been like a hand in a poker game--luck, fate, new cards rearrangements, and readjustments. In poker, life the same way, take the chips or leave them but play the game fair. So far I can't complain. I have a job, and am home having a good time.

Let's begin at the beginning of 1932 and follow through. I was then employed as industrial engineer with Jensen Radio Manufacturing Company in Chicago. My connections there were extremely pleasant and gave me an opportunity to use my own initiative. I took advantage of it and developed a graphical method of cost and efficiency control. It worked beautifully. Some day when my ambition gets the best of me, I am going to write it up for publication and find out just how good it is. At Jensens I also made time studies, plant layouts, cost analysis, etc. All these things are good when production is up. If a good low priced article can't be disposed of in quantities, production slumps and young industrial engineers are out of jobs. So it went.

Upon leaving Jensens I thought I was quite good at this industrial business, so tried my hand at making the Rocklin Industrial Engineering Company, 333 No. Michigan in Chicago, a going concern. In a short while, I found my liabilities greater than my assets so pulled up stakes. If times were better it might have gone over.

Luck was with me again. I walked the streets for only a short while before I hooked up with the Holland Furnace Company and was sent to their branch office in Joliet, Illinois. There I peddled air-conditioning units and furnaces.

Varied experience is piling up on my otherwise poor record. Western Electric, Engineering; Grisby-Grunow, Development; Jensen Radio, Production; Rocklin Industrial Engineering Company, Consulting; and Holland Furnace Company, Sales. Have I missed anything? Oh yes! An inventor too-- At Hollands I got an idea on a valve for an air conditioning system and applied for a patent. To me it looks good. Maybe it is and maybe it isn't. Time will tell.

Last August, when I came home for my sister's wedding, I saw my present boss. Went back to Joliet, thought it over, packed my bags and came to Sioux City to work.

This leads me up to the present. Am working for the Sioux City Foundry and Boiler Company as Heating Engineer, draftsman, furnace salesman, boiler salesman, steel salesman, collector and what-not. This company for over 40 years has manufactured the Norfolk Cast Iron coal burning Furnace. We have recently brought out a new Norfolk automatic gas furnace that is a hum dinger. Am doing some final testing on it before we send it in for approval of the American Gas Association. Expect to have this work done in a few days. Then to hop in my car and attempt to inveigle some of these gas companies to handle it. Hope so, we could stand a little business. If it goes alright and if they haven't canned me before this spring we'll probably bring out a home air conditioning system. It's a good field and would like to get into it.

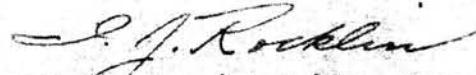
Frankly, I've been lucky this last year. In times like this, there is a possibility that some of you, fellows, may have also had to alter your plans. If I may be privileged to offer advice, mine would be to keep on trying. Consoling yourself with the thought that better engineers than you are out, helps a bit but doesn't solve the problem. This world is moving every day and things are being done, even if to a limited extent. Somebody has to do them. The older boys are always looking for young blood. We just have to show them we have the stuff.

You should see that mechanical Laboratory. Professor Croft, the Mechanical Engineering Department, and the College of Engineering deserve our compliments and support. They did a honey of a job.

Homecoming isn't homecoming without the whole gang there. Don't let this next one be a disappointment. Let's all be there.

Best wishes and a happy 1933!

Sincerely yours,



Isadore Jay (I.J.) Rocklin.

422 S. Sixth St.,
De Kalb, Ill.

Jan. 20. 1933

Gentlemen:-

This is certainly a tough life. To top off the depression just past, or passing, I'm having trouble getting my "Bull Session" letter in on time. I wrote one about the middle of December which wally returned with his warning that Jan. 21 was to be the deadline. So I forgot all about it immediately effecting to rush the job through in the last few days, as usual. But this time a serious obstacle has arisen in the form of overtime. Sunday, when I really intended to write on the letter, we worked 10 hours and a half at the plant, and then company came. Monday evening company blocked me again and on both Tuesday and Wednesday we worked until ten o'clock at night. So here it is Thursday with one day to go, more company but gone home fairly early, and my letter only partly written and still to be typed. If it weren't for the wonderful training in handling a situation of this sort, that I received as an engineering student, I'm afraid this combination of a sudden influx of orders at the plant coupled with a sudden increase in the frequency of visitors at home would have me whipped.

For almost every day in the last month we've been shipping out canned goods at practically on full capacity, which means that we have emptied our warehouses here at De Kalb of some fifty or sixty thousand cases of peas and corn. Except for this brief period of heavy shipping, though, the year of 1932 has been somewhat below normal in every respect. This company has been making some rather drastic slashes in salaries and wages-I'm interested in the latter at the present-in an effort to reduce their losses to a minimum. Last month orders were issued that even month men were subject to lay-off when there was no shipping. Still I think this depression can be credited with at least one redeeming feature. Nearly all of us have had a chance to solve the problem of how to maintain what we consider a respectable standard of living on a great deal

less than our idea of a respectable income. We are also given the opportunity to observe the results obtained from a great variety of these solutions. As for my own, well, I seem to be ending up with a negative quantity. And I've even tried Bull Durham.

My suffering was somewhat alleviated a few months ago by a visit from Hardwick who stopped in while on his way home to spend his vacation. His appearance on the scene in such a time of stress sufficed to elevate my spirits considerably. And I think the benefits were mutual because the elevation of my spirits seemed to dissipate a severe headache he was suffering as a result of a bump on the head. Another of my visitors, whom you might be interested in hearing about, was Joe Crookham. Joe finished with G. E. last spring and is at present studying Law at Iowa. Perhaps I should mention that Joe is no longer a bachelor having deserted the ranks early this fall. Fred Zuhn has also been to see me a couple of times, on the last occasion coming in his new Ford Eight. Was quite despondent because he received a salary cut of a dollar a month and had to start working nine hours a day instead of eight.

Hoping each member of the '30 Class of M. E. has a good report of himself in the "Bull Session", I remain

Your friend,

K. A. Sangster