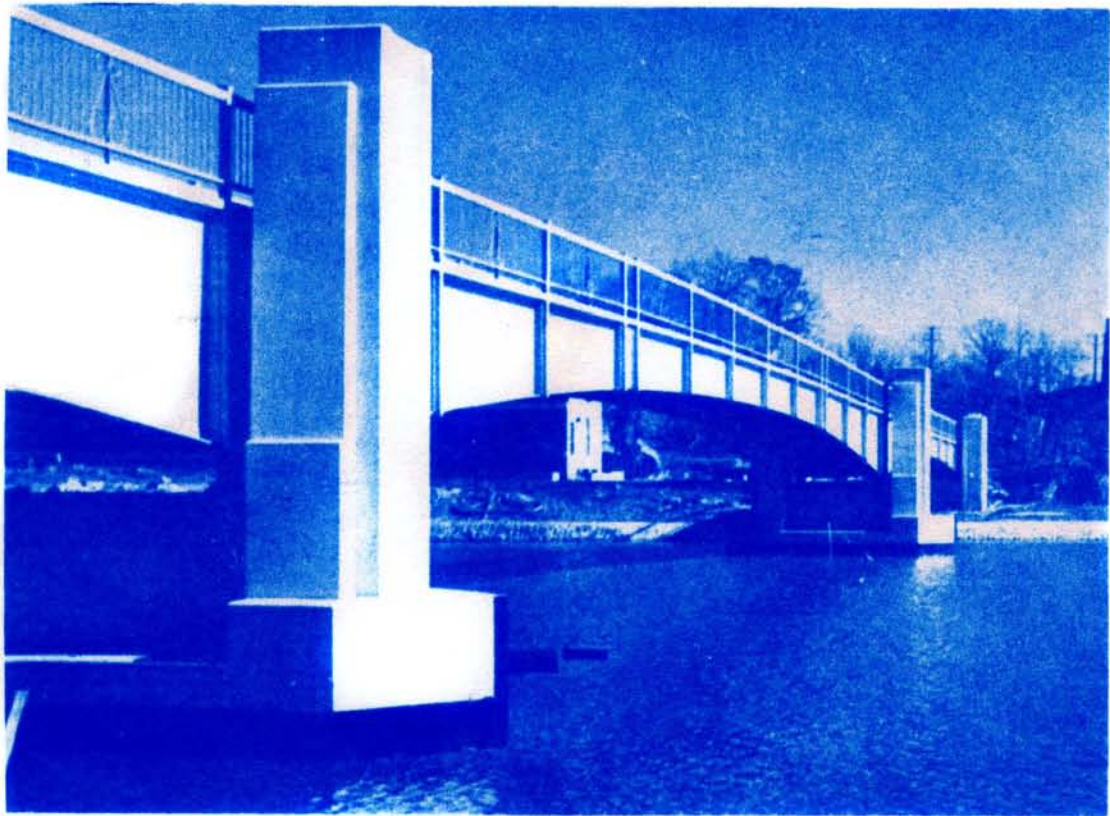


The

MECHANICAL'S BULL-SESSION

1934



CLASS of '30

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

WALLACE E. NELSON (1907 - 1933)

Wallace E. Nelson faced life with an intellectual curiosity, a rare honesty, a delightful humor, and an inherent determination to give his utmost to his family, to his friends, and to his country.

His brilliant abilities, budding as a student, flowered into justified leadership in the community in which he chose to live.

His classmates may well consider "Wallie" as exemplifying the aims and ideals of his class; they may well assume his practical scheme of life as a most satisfactory and worthy philosophy of living:

WALLY SHOT AT THE STARS WITH HIS FEET WELL
BRACED UPON MOTHER EARTH.

WALLIE WAS NEVER FRUSTRATED.

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
IOWA CITY

January 10, 1935

Members of the Class of 1930:

One more calendar has been discarded together with most of the worries of the past year. At this writing, it would seem that all of you will enter this new year with a more optimistic spirit.

Mr. Keller is still on leave of absence and his place is filled temporarily by Mr. Anderson, who was formerly connected with the Universities of Wisconsin, and Kansas. Mr. Barnes is developing his work in Time and Motion Study and has been asked to present a paper in this field in England. Mr. Thoren has published a bulletin, "The Physical and Anti-Knock Properties of Gasolene Alcohol Blends", and continues to develop the apparatus and methods in the laboratory. It should interest you to note that Ted Kiesling (M.E.34) won the 1934 A.S.M.E. Student prize at Chicago in competition with representatives from fourteen other universities and colleges. Mr. O'Brien has recently developed a new device to measure the torque and pressures on a vertical drill. Mr. Caywood is developing apparatus for measuring deflections in cranks of automobile engines. Mr. Fielding is a vice-president of the Tri-Cities Branch of the "Steel Treaters", and is instrumental in carrying on some special class-work for that society. Mr. Ekstrand is busy constructing hydraulic models for the Army engineers.

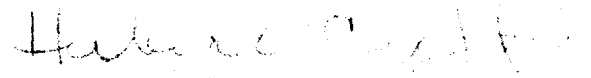
The dedication of the Mechanical Engineering Laboratory last April was a complete success with some fifty visitors from different universities and colleges.

Due to business conditions no new equipment has been donated to the laboratory during the past year. A recording watt-hour meter has been obtained and will be mounted on a truck for use in various parts of the laboratory.

It was a distinct shock to all of us to learn of the death of "Wally" Nelson. Your class has lost not only one of its most promising men, but also one of your most sincere and thoughtful friends.

Wishing each of you a most prosperous year, I am

Sincerely yours,



Huber O. Croft
Head of the Department

HOC:F

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING DEPT.
University of Iowa
Iowa City

107 Engineering Bldg.
January 19, 1935

Members of the Class of 1930:

I am writing this in the midst of odors of turpentine and paint--yes, after ten years the halls and offices of the Engineering Building are being redecorated.

Every few days we have word from some former student--sometimes by personal visit, more often by letter. It is a great pleasure to follow the fortunes of each of you.

The other day a letter came asking for the names of books and other information on time and motion study. The writer (M.E. Class '32) of this letter had just accepted a position as head of a time study and rate setting department in a tool plant. We hope he handles the job as well as we think he will.

Then there is the chap who visited us a few weeks ago. He graduated last June, took a position with a big company--worked three months on one assignment, saved the company \$4000--got a raise in pay for himself. The report which he submitted on the job was an excellent one--I saw it. In fact, his superintendent liked it so well that he displayed it to the manager of the plant. If only students would write reports like that in Mech. Lab.!

One Saturday morning last summer I ran on to two Iowa men (one a Civil and the other a Chemical) in Rochester. We had breakfast together. Thus I heard how they had left Iowa by auto, had gone east looking for work--found just what they wanted in Buffalo. They were highly pleased at their good fortune but were a bit disappointed that their travels had not taken them to Philadelphia and New York City first. They had to begin work on the following Monday.

I imagine Professor Croft has told you the departmental news. However, he may not have mentioned the fact that he presented a paper on "The Calculation of the Dispersion of Flue Dust and Cinders from Chimneys" at the Denver meeting of the A.S.M.E. last June, and that later in the summer he spoke before a meeting of the Association of Engineers and Architects of Mexico in Mexico City. I have just learned that Professor Croft and G. F. Schmarje will present a paper on "Radiation Intensities and Heat Transfer by Radiation in Boiler Furnaces" at the June meeting of the A.S.M.E. to be held in Cincinnati.

With best wishes for a happy and successful year, I am

Sincerely yours,

Ralph M. Barnes
Ralph M. Barnes.

February 20, 1935

To the Class of 1931:

It is my pleasure again to write this annual letter and to recall our many pleasant relations of two or more years ago. For those who have had the good fortune to have been busy the past four years the time has passed quickly. Time drags only when we are idle.

There has been no major change in the department this past year but certain improvements or developments have been made in some of the work. Junior machine design is now a four hour subject, being taught as such this semester for the first time. This should give sufficient time to make the work more thorough. The senior design will be no more advanced but better and more complete work can be done. The work done in senior design this year was, I think, the best we have done yet. We have a larger class of juniors than usual and with the additional hour, we are expecting to do considerably better work in senior design next year.

We have several doing graduate work this year, two coming up for the Doctorate Degree in June. One or two of this years class have indicated their intension of returning next year for more advanced work.

All the offices in the building have been recently painted and we feel quite fixed up.

It will be a pleasure to receive the 1935 copy of "Letters".

Sincerely yours,

Thos. G. Caywood

5
1202 Jackson St.
Alexandria, La.
February 4, 1935

Dear Classmates:

This particular period of the new deal finds me back selling maps again. In November I had a new map of this state made up according to my own specifications and I have the entire state as territory. Not very permanent but it pays over a hundred a week for as long as it takes me to cover the state. And there are lots of other states. Within the year I shall probably have a similar map made for Arkansas.

I don't get to see many of you anymore. Got back to my first Homecoming last fall but I don't believe a single one of our class was there. On the same trip Mrs. Allen and I spent a couple of days at the Century of Progress.

I was working for the U. S. Chamber of Commerce up until October at which time I decided that our paths should diverge. In all frankness I must confess that the Chamber seems likely to remain in existence even without me. I presume it was benefited by the change as much as I feel that I was.

It was not until I had a talk with Prof. Croft on my trip east that I learned of the untimely death of Wallie Nelson. It hit me right between the eyes. As most of you know Wallace and I were very good pals. Used to play a lot of golf together and two years ago I enjoyed a week end visit at his home. The circumstances of his death as outlined by Prof. Croft seemed particularly tragic. I pay him the highest tribute I know when I say he was an all-round good scout and a true friend.

I had a letter from Bergie some weeks ago pointing out the necessity of our electing a new class secretary and stating emphatically that he did not want the job. Whereupon, remembering the time he carelessly turned in that E.E. experiment before I had time to copy the drawing I not only voted for him, but in fact sent in three votes. Frankly, I suspect him of having cast about the same number for himself, but the end justified the means. He is unquestionably the logical choice. I shall wait until the last possible moment before sending this so that he will have no time for a rebuttal. No fair re-writing, Bergie.

If there is any one of you who isn't afraid of writer's cramp, I will be at the above address for a couple of months yet, after which I am moving down to New Orleans. All letters answered promptly.

Yours sincerely,

Larry Allen.

114 Wellington
Waterloo, Iowa
February 28, 1935

Dear Gang:

After a little more than two years of catch as catch can, it certainly is a relief to have a steady job once again. I started working for the John Deere Tractor Company the first of August on what is known as a junior engineers course. It sounds good but covers a multitude of sins. So far my time has been spent in the experimental division, doing test work most of which has been dynamometer work. I have been informed, however, that in a short time I shall be forced to renew acquaintance with my old friend the drafting board. But I shall try to bear it as I believe there is a future here and like this type of work very well--in fact I feel that I hit the right place at the right time.

Wallies' untimely death has taken from us one of our best members, and as he was with us, so he left us, looking straight ahead and with no fears whatsoever. I only wish every one of you could have heard the sermon which a friend of his preached and the text of which Wallie had picked. It was the most impressive I have ever heard.

I wish to take this opportunity of thanking Professor Croft for his words to the memory of Wallie.

I also wish to thank you all in helping make this letter a success. Also read Plumly's letter and let me know what you think. I'd be only too glad to cooperate on such a plan and I really believe it would hold the class together better if it were adopted.

Trusting that your efforts for the coming year will be rewarded, I am

Very truly yours,

Bergie.

7

February 14, 1935

Dear Gang--

The longer I am out of school the more I realize that I will eventually use all the subjects that I was exposed to at Iowa. I could never see any use taking Military Science, especially when every country was broke and not wanting war, until this Fall when I marched up to the altar and took unto me a little Detroit girl as my wife.

I am still situated at Connors Creek gaining this valuable thing called experience and I am not able as yet to tide Henry Ford over the lean months.

I suppose you have all seen in your magazines that we are rebuilding Connors Creek. I started predicting this event, as you will remember, 4-1/2 years ago so you can see that I wasn't wrong. I wonder if I can get a job with Babson to help him pick the next depression.

We are really going to have a nice plant when it's finished. The three 20,000 kw machines are being converted into 30,000 kw machines using 600 lb and 850 F steam. These machines will be bled at four stages and use about 9 lbs^{OF STEAM} per kw hour. When all the operating kinks are straightened out we will be able to make a kw per lb of coal.

We have four new boilers at present and more are going to be built gradually so as to be ready for the new 60,000 kw machine which will be operating next year.

My work has been very interesting during the last year. I have had an opportunity to see a new plant built and help put it in operation. That may sound dry and uninteresting, but I can assure you that it has its thrills and problems.

The latest work I have been doing was for the Superheater Company, to determine whether or not we have too much radiant surface in our new superheaters.

We are having a swell winter in Detroit this year--always below 32 F but hardly ever below zero. This makes ideal weather for skating and other winter sports which are plentiful in and around Detroit.

Here's hoping I see you all before it's time to write another epistle, how about Home-coming?

Yours truly,

Clarence H. Clark

C. H. Clark

CHC:LEW

9

Dallas, Texas
February 20, 1935

Dear Gang:

Of course I feel guilty for not taking my part of the responsibility for keeping the old gang together in spirit at least. I have no excuse, hence, allow me to dismiss the past by saying that I am sorry and have truly missed your letters.

You have probably been informed that I have been married for almost two years and have a daughter 4 mo. old. Yes, gentlemen, a family with responsibility and everything pertaining there-to. As a further blessing I have had a job during the depression and so really have very little to complain about.

My work with Procter and Gamble has been engineering and supervision of maintenance, construction, and operation of steam, power, refrigeration, and water supply. This job really keeps one busy but certainly gives him a valuable varied experience. During the rush period it seems as if it would set you crazy but after all it is interesting and enjoyable.

I often times think of the Eng. College at Iowa and think how soft those professors have it but I'll bet they wouldn't agree. I don't believe I have met a man from S.U.I. since I have been in the south. Texas is especially proud of their achievements in educating their own and keeping them here so the large number of engineers here have been educated within the state. An out of state man is looked upon somewhat as a foreigner and you would be surprised at the amount of feeling existing.

Well, boys, I have made this feeble effort to inform you of my whereabouts and hope that each of your efforts has been better than mine. I am looking forward to reading your letters and saying "Hello" to all--including those professors back at IOWA.

Your classmate,

Earl Davis
5547 Mercedes St.
Dallas, Texas.

10

DuPont Viscoloid Co.,
Leominster, Mass.

Dear Gang,

Although I received Bergsten's request for a Session letter several weeks ago, I find myself getting it in just under the wire. That will be better than last year, however, when I got my letter in too late to be included in the publication. It made me feel bad to think that I had failed wally on his last compilation of our letter. We all miss him, and shall continue to miss him from time to time as we reflect on the doings of our class. He certainly was an active member. We are lucky that we have a reliable man like Bergie to fall back on.

Since I last had a letter in the Bull Session, I have been transferred as you will nitice by the address. I am still working for the Industrial Engineering Division and reporting to Wilmington but I am sttioned here for the time being. This is a new branch at this plant of the Industrial Engineering Division and I was sent up when it was opened. I've had lots of fun working on new projects and learning about more of the Dupont Companies many products. The Dupont Viscoiloid Company manufactures cellulose nitrate products like dresser sets, pyroline combs, baby rattles, toothbrushes, safety glass sheeting for windshields, blown toys, and the raw stock for many other pyroxylin doodads. All these products are made at this plant. The plant employs about 1500 people and is the nicest and cleanest plant I've worked on since I've been with the Company. The biggest business we get here is safety glass. It is sold to the glass companies like Pittsburgh Plate Glass who fabricate the final product. Another big item is press combs. And another is Dr. West toothbrushes, all of which are made on this plant.

During my year here I have done quite a bit on power, which seems to be getting to be my long suit, but in the meantime I have had plenty of time to spend on automatic machinery and several Chemical Engineering problems which have cropped up. There are all kinds of places where automatic machemery are used on this plant in the manufacture of articals. I haven't had so much to do with them but on a couple of other operations I have. One where about twenty-five operations are carried out with the push of a button.

Some of you have probably been wondering why this plant should be way up here. It happens that this is known as the Comb City. There are thirty or forty small comb shops in the town that started years ago and manufactured bone dressing combs and wemans side combs in the days when women used to have hair. There are still a few left-comb shops, I mean- that managed to weather the depression and they are now manufacturing pyroline combs and products. The Dupont Company bought out the most successful of the town shops and started operations. They already had a plant in Arlington N. J. so the

two were merged into the DuPont Viscoloid Company.

Leominster is a town of about 12,000 population but at that it is so small town that you can't go to Whalom Park and have a ride on the roller coaster without your secretary telling you about it in the morning. The country round about here is swell. It is really beautiful. There are innumerable small fresh water lakes where you can go swimming in the summer time and fishing all the year round and then if one likes the mountains one only has to drive up into New Hampshire for an hour or two. All of the scenery is simply grand, and I like it very much. We are about 75 miles from Boston so of course I get in there very often to hear good music and see a show once in a while. Many of the Broadway productions opened in Boston this year and I managed to see two of them.

But do we have the winters! and plenty of this white fluffy stuff call snow! We had a corker about two weeks ago. It was just as if God had stood in the middle of Main Street and said, "Let there be snow." And boy! Was there SNOW! It was two feet deep and when I went out to get my car out from in front of the house in the morning I had to dig it out. I have bought me a pair of skis, though, and have been going skiing every weekend. It is real sport, though a bit strenuous. I can manage to stay upright pretty well but then if one does fall down it doesn't hurt except to get a face full of snow or to end up with a ski wrapped around your neck with your foot still strapped to it. When the snow is too slow for skiing then we go ice skating and when it is too worm for ice skating, we go hassback riding as they say up in these here parts. So you see I have plenty of good times

I'm anxious to hear about some of you other fellows. I have had one or two letters from Mr. Barnes-one just recently-but outside of that haven't heard a word from any one else connected with the class. I heard, while home last summer, that Keller had landed a nice soft job. You haven't got a sheet of those unperforated stamps yet have you George? You old Democrat. I saw one of your projects while I was home this summer. A road. Or was it a road? I guess it might be call that. At least it must have kept several men busy building it and many more mechanics repairing the cars that went over it. I know if you could have seen it you would probably have marveled too at the number of humps per foot, and would have said to the engineer on the job, "What the hell, here!". I'd better watch out. I may be looking for a job myself one of these days. Oh well, I wouldn't have a chance anyway. I'm of the wrong political faith. (All In Fun)

Well, this has stretched out to be a pretty long letter. I only hope the rest of you write as much. Probably if you did Bergie would come along later and ask for another subscription to pay for all of the paper that he had to use. I have been pretty lax in the editing of this and I hope you will all excuse the errors, both typographical and grammatical. Oh yes. To those of you who have already slipped by the wayside and are the sole supporter of a wife and family, let me gleefully remind you

[signed "Kenney"]

that I am still unmarried.
Ever yours until the Democrats reduce the public debt,

Hotel Galt,
Sterling, Illinois.
February 6, 1935.

Dear Classmates:

A year seems to roll around in a big hurry, especially if one has not been working the greater part of that time. And to say the least, lots of things can happen during a year--maybe not to so many of us individually, but perhaps, to the class as a whole.

The loss of our amiable and loyal class-mate "Wally" marks the first loss from our ranks, and is a grim reminder that some day there will be none of us left to contribute to our page to the yearly "Bull-Session". So therefore, why not carry on in the truly fine spirit that Wally had, and contribute 100% each year.

As for myself, my story is little different from last year. I've only recently secured a position in the Illinois Emergency Relief Office in Sterling, and cannot say just how long it will last. I suppose you will wonder what a person with an Engineer's training knows about Social Welfare work, but there are two other Engineers in the office, one of them being the boss, so figure it out for yourselves. Four of the force are Iowa grads too.

I only wish I could find more of interest on which to write but for the present, this will have to be sufficient. Here's hoping for that 100% representation that Bergie is asking for.

Sincerely,

Dick Lyons

13
1653 Hering Avenue
New York, New York

February 8, 1935.

Dear Classmates:

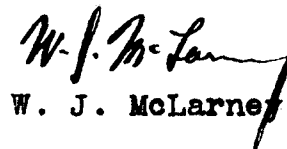
During the early Spring I was in the Mid-west and had the opportunity to visit the University for a few days. While there I saw Professors Croft and Barnes. I also had the chance to go through the new Mechanical Laboratories. The visit to the school made the long years that we have been out vanish like a few days. The personnel of the school did not appear to look older and there was an atmosphere of permanency about the place. The visit was a restful retreat from the chaotic world. The new Labs. were splendid. They would nearly make a fellow want to go through the course over again. If any of you men who are located in the Mid-west have not visited the University in the last few years, I recommend that you go there. There you will find fresh inspiration.

As to myself, I have wandered far afield from engineering during the year but I am slowly moving back. Early in the year, I was a research assistant in the Teachers' College of Columbia University. My job was to test school children for left-handedness. When the appropriation gave out, the job did likewise. I spent a few weeks in Chicago looking for work and landed a job in New York while there. I am still working on the job. My task is to give vocational guidance to dependent boys and to straighten out their adjustment problems.

I have not lost contact with engineering. I have been doing some active work in the Junior Group of the Metropolitan Section of the A.S.M.E. I am listed to speak before the body early next month.

Several times I have tried to break away from New York because I think that this is a poor town for an engineer, but each time I have been unsuccessful. If conditions look good this spring, I believe I will try again to locate in Chicago. I hope that my next letter will be from that town.

Very truly yours,


W. J. McLarnet

14

Port Byron, Ill.
February 14, 1935

Dear Friends of Wallace:

The time is here again for your annual class letter. Bergie has asked me to write a few lines in behalf of my dearly beloved brother, Wallace.

Continuing from the last letter from him you know he had already suffered a great deal. He came home from Rochester the 2nd of February 1934 and seemed to be getting along O K until his legs started paining him. Dad took him back to Rochester March 15th and I hope that I'm never again called upon to witness a loved one suffer as he did the rest of his days. Poor circulation caused gangrene in both limbs and they were amputated within eight inches of his hips; he lived one week in that condition and in that week he had already made plans for making his artificial limbs. During all his illness he was very brave and cheerful and continued showing interest in life and the world.

The sympathy, friendship and loyalty of all our many friends and relatives show us what a well liked boy he was. I wish to thank all of you for your kind thoughts, words, and deeds shown during our sorrow.

Your class letter is a wonderful means of continued friendship and interest and can mean great success for those of you who weather the depression with a smile and courage to carry on.

I am now office secretary at the Moline Y.W.C.A. and like the work very much. In this position I am meeting many interesting people and putting to practice my years study at Iowa.

Wallace thought so much of his classmates and friends I'm sure he would like to have me wish you much happiness and success. May his memory be an inspiration to all of us to live nobly and to give our lives to the service of others.

Sincerely,

Miss Verna Nelson
(Miss) Verna Nelson

15
216 Liberty Drive S.E.,
Cedar Rapids, Iowa.
February 14, 1935

Dear Classmates:

It is certainly a relief to learn that the class letter is going to be issued again this year, thanks to Bergie! This Annual letter is going to be much more important to us as the years go by and to reach these years we must see to it that the letter is not allowed to lapse. I don't think that one man should be forced to assume the responsibility for its publication, year after year. Why wouldn't it be practical to have a different class member have charge of it each year. Probably the most logical method of determining the editor for each year would be to pass the responsibility accordingly to alphabetical progression. In other words next year it would be Clarence Clark's turn. How does that sound "Bergie"? If so just advise Clarence that he is the next victim.

I wish it were possible for us all to meet personally. Last Homecoming I saw so many of the boys I used to be associated with day after day that my trip to Iowa City was more than worth while even though I didn't get to witness the game. While writing of reunions I might remind you fellows that on next commencement week the first reunion of the class of Iowa 1930 is due. It would be fortunate if some of us could get together at that time. It might be well for you to think it over. You will all be receiving a letter from the Alumni Office in the near future telling more about the reunion plans and so forth.

My year has been uneventful. I am still working for the Telephone Company in Cedar Rapids doing the same work I was last year at this time. Consequently I'm afraid I have nothing much to offer personally in this letter. However, I'm certainly looking forward to reading all of your letters and learning what the old year 1934 has done for you.

Sincerely yours,

Mark Plumly

Mark Plumly

16

3227 Jennings St.,
Sioux City, Iowa

Dear Friends:

Am still at my old stand. Outside of four months last summer when I took a job with the Rock Island Arsenal as Tool and Die Designer and learned how the government does things, I have been with the Sioux City Foundry & Boiler Co.

Our new Gas Furnace Konvertor has been on the market for some time now and I have been spending the majority of my time with various gas companies promoting sales of this equipment. It has taken me around the country quite a bit and ran into one of the gang. Bergie and I had a nice gabfest.

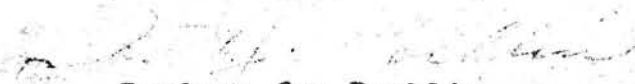
I have recently invested a great deal of my meager savings in a new article I am trying to put over on my own hook. This coming week is the initial sales endeavor. Its manufacture and sale fits in with the boiler and foundry end of my work. I trust that in the next issue of the "Bull Session" I will be successful enough to write more about it.

Time has taken its toll. The best member of our gang has departed. We owe a lot to Wallies good work, kindness, and thoughtfulness. The memory of him will always remain pleasant.

Some of you fellows that hit the high trails and were led far from home ought to come back next homecoming and see the new mechanical lab. With the stuff they have to work with, those young fellows soon graduating should be ten times better engineers than we were. In recollection they wont have to work hard.

My best wishes to all of you for a healthy, happy and prosperous year.

Yours very truly,


Isadore Jay Rocklin

1032 So. Fourth St.,
DeKalb, Illinois,
February 7, 1935.

Gentlemen:

Congratulations, Bergie; may the honors bestowed upon you by your beloved classmates be yours forever. In an effort to make your load as light as possible I'll try to restrict the manuscript to a single page. In fact, after several hours of diligently searching my mind for something of interest, I think the history of my life for the past year may cover considerably less than a page.

This letter could be greatly simplified by merely referring you to any one of the previous issues of the "Bull Session", so uneventful has my existence become. The drawing that I do during the non-operating season has even degenerated into a more or less routine task, that of developing ideas for a new corn shed here at DeKalb. Every fall for the past four years has seen me hunched over the old drawing board, making lines supposed to represent the ideal corn machinery layout, and each fall this ideal layout presents a somewhat different picture than the one preceding. I have great hopes for the future, however, because new ideas were becoming very scarce at the close of the session just finished.

Our 1934 canning season was very mediocre. The pea crop was almost a total failure due to the dry weather and what corn escaped the drouth and chinch bugs was badly damaged by ear worms. Taking everything into consideration we had a rather dismal year.

I did have one rather interesting experience last summer that I had almost forgotten. We have two deep well pumps, No. 1 installed in 1926 when the plant was built, and No. 2 installed in 1931. When we started No. 2 last summer we found the discharge to be only about half of what it should have been, the water level in the well was nearly 100 ft. below what it had been the year before, and the water level raised immediately after starting the pump instead of dropping as it should have done. This was a rather confusing situation so we decided to try pump No. 2, which we did with results almost as confusing. We found the discharge to be even greater than when the pump was first installed, and running this pump lowered the water level in well No. 2. The two wells are approximately a thousand feet apart. A careful study of the situation, along with considerable argument, resulted in the theory that the two veins of water had run together thereby raising the level in well No. 1 and lowering it in well No. 2. Such an occurrence would account for the changes in discharge but would not explain the peculiar performance of the water level in well No. 2 while operating pump No. 2. Furthermore, a comparison of the logs of the two wells did not substantiate our theory. So we pulled pump No. 2 and found that the air line had rusted through about 40 ft. below the water level and the riser pipe of the pump itself had sprung a leak several sections above the impellers, giving a quite simple explanation of the miracle. But it still seems likely that the two veins have run together, as is indicated by the increased discharge of pump No. 1.

My allotted space is almost filled, so I'll finish my narrative and hope for a better contribution the rest of you.

Yours very truly,
K. W. Sanger.