



Don't Forget Barn Gang Every Tuesday!

Barn Gang Report

The Barn Gang completed 1997 with an average Tuesday attendance of 24 at its luncheon meetings. In the year of 1998, with advance assignment of program responsibilities, increased attendance is anticipated.

Our final meeting for 1997 provided our largest attendance, as each two Barn Gang members sponsored one Wayne High School "Tech Prep" student. Total attendance was 42.

We start 1998 with a tour of the Science Center at the Museum of



Natural History, following a luncheon at the Club on January 6. Then, on the 13th, Skip Pratt has the program in the absence of Jim Appleton,

and he will tell us all about the U2 Spy Plane and its flights over Iraq. Harry Benjamin will give us a good program on the 20th, and Rev. Bill Blake has a good program on Lasers for the 27th. Programs for February will be provided by John Bosch, David Brewer, John Calhoun and Paul Carey. 1026

I WAS THERE!

By Jim Custer

When I was a boy of 7 or 8, my father took me and my brother, Randall, out to the Vandalia airport. This journey usually took place on Saturday or Sunday. The object was to watch airplanes land and take off; also to listen to pilots tell of their adventures in the air and from flying all over this country.

It was truly thrilling to see these pilots, many of whom became world famous, land and spend the day telling tales of their exploits.

For example, such notable pilots spending time in Vandalia were Jimmie Doolittle, Roscoe Turner, Hugh Herndon, John Macready, plus many, many more and, of course, Orville Wright.

Al Johnson owned and operated the Vandalia Airport, which is today Cox Municipal Airport. In early days, Al flew and made a living flying folks over Dayton for \$5; and Mrs. Johnson fed us from a small cafe where good hamburgers, hot dogs, popcorn and soda pop were plentiful, and also inexpensive.

This cafe had the usual old screen doors, held closed by long springs attached to the side frames, and banged loudly when you left the cafe.

I was there to see what was going on and play around as boys do. On one of our trips to the airport, I was given some money for a bag of popcorn. I had my popcorn and went outside and sat on the top step to eat it. I paid little attention when the screen door banged closed and a nice young lady sat down beside me and said, "May I share your popcorn?" I was glad to share with her, and between the two of us, we shortly finished the popcorn. She thanked me for letting her have some popcorn, and walked away. I only wish that I would have asked Amelia Earhart that day for her autograph!

She was a nice lady. She came to the airport flying an Autogyro for Beechnut Gum. The autogyro was painted all white with the name "Beechnut Gum" painted on the fuselage.

Things like that happened many times while "I was there!"

Way Back When ...

OUR CLUB'S HISTORY IN "BITE SIZE" PIECES

On March 14, 1920, proposed Club bylaws were discussed and approved, and arrangements made to file articles of incorporation with the Secretary of the state of Ohio. Two matters of policy were established—

*the limitation of general membership either to men actively engaged in work included under the broad definition of engineering (active members), or to those whose work was closely allied to engineering (associate members). The second policy was to fix the dues at a figure low enough so that worthy prospects were not shut out because of expense.

*Today Club memberships are open not only to the engineering community, but also to men and women in business, education and science. Happily for all of us, the dues continue to remain low.



CLUB WISH LIST

Are you tired of polishing your silver servers or is silver not your "cup of tea" anymore? Search your drawers and the attic for serving pieces and a coffee and tea service that you would be willing to donate to the Club to be used on special occasions. Let us all enjoy your generosity. We will publish your name in *The Dayton Engineer*.

Other items on our wish list are:

- A wheel chair;
- Any silverplated platters; or
- Headset for telephone.

Thanks

Thanks to Donald Monnier for the typewriter and silver trays. Thanks to Wilber Lang for the silver trays.



GOOD NEWS

Promotions? Honors and awards? Major contracts? We want to share your good fortune with other Club members, so let us know, and we'll spread the news.