



Crouch takes audience back to raucous 1918 dedication

Officers (2007-2008)

President: Harry Seifert
Vice President: Jim Papa
Secretary: Steven Smith
Treasurer: Lawrence Porter
Past President: Ben Graham

Board of Governors

Gavin Jenney
Amanda Wright Lane
Louis Luedtke
Marcia Muller
Lyric Rillera
Charles Stuart

Fellows

('87) Dr. Hans von Ohain
('88) Eral C. Frazee
('89) Lt. Gen. James Stewart
('90) Dr. Fritz Russ
('91) William Lockwood, P.E.
('92) Hardy Trolander
('93) Dr. Ervin J. Nutter
('94) Charles Abramovitz
('97) Virginia Kettering
('98) Harold Shaw
('03) John Bosch

Committee Chairs

Events: Leatha Stewart
Finance: Scott Reeve
House: David Drumm
Joint Development:
Harry Couch & Fred Dudding
Marketing: Phil Mowry
Membership: Charles Stuart
Technical Education: Joe Martino

Club Staff

Manager: Darbie Kincaid
Secretary: Brenda McQueen
Dining Room Manager:
Gary Williams
Executive Chef: Laura Cotton
Banquet Coordinator:
Gregory Frederick
Offsite Catering Coordinator:
Becky Smith

Club Foundation

President: Chuck Allport
Vice President: James Mattice
Treasurer: Anne Stoops
Secretary: Larry Jenkins
Past President: Gordon Sargent

Trustees

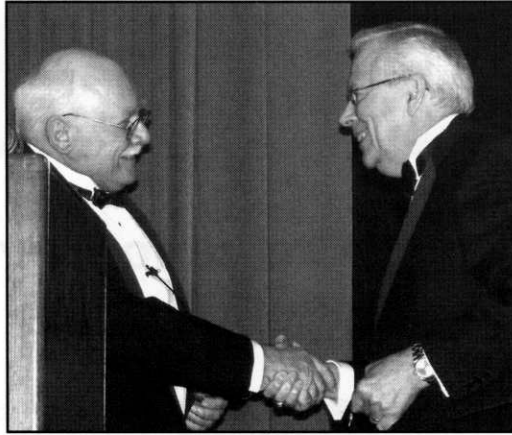
Pat Adamson
Chuck Buchanan
Richard Novak
Melinda Nutter
Leatha Stewart
Clifton Williams

The Engineers Club of Dayton
110 East Monument Avenue
Dayton, OH 45402
(937) 228-2148 FAX 228-4794
For newsletter submissions:
HCawood@aol.com

Founded in 1914 to serve the engineering and professional community.

The Engineers Club does not assume responsibility for statements and opinions in the articles, papers and discussions appearing herein.

Editor: Elaine Middlestetter
elaine@conceptcompany.com
(937) 299-9686



Harry Seifert thanks Tom Crouch for his presentation. -Photo by Dick Palmer.

Following is Tom Crouch's opening of his talk, "Where Creative Endeavor Finds Reward," at the Feb. 2, 2008 gala.

Ninety years ago, on the evening of Feb. 2, 1918, **Orville Wright** did something quite out of character. He gave a speech accepting this building in which we are meeting tonight on behalf of the 275 members of the Engineers Club of Dayton.

The notion that Mr. Wright had spoken in public was so startling that, 40 years later, the Club historian, **Charles Paul**, called attention to it in his history of the organization. But Orville had had little choice. As first vice-president of the club, he was the highest ranking officer of the organization who could perform that function. The president, **Charles Kettering**, along with his friend and colleague Edward A. Deeds, was presenting the building to the club. The occasion was, as one local newspaper reported, "...one which will stand as a milestone in the onward march of progressive Dayton."

The building that they dedicated on that long ago evening remains one of the architectural gems of the Gem City. Designed by locally prominent architects **Harry I. Schenck** and **Harry J. Williams**, both of whom were also members of the Club, the three story building is a Georgian Revival structure, constructed, as the program for the evening noted, "...of Bedford, Indiana, limestone and soft-toned grey-buff brick laid in Flemish pattern with wide white mortar joints." The interior rooms offered a "simple, quiet hominess, due to the English treatment given most of the rooms."

But the importance of this building to the city has a great deal more to do with the achievements of the members of the Club than with the undoubted architectural merit of the building.

This clubhouse was built at a time when Dayton was emerging as a national and international center of technological achievement. The building was the social and cultural meeting place for the extraordinary generation of individuals who put Dayton on the world map. Edward Deeds, Charles Kettering, **Arthur Morgan**, Orville Wright - they seem to be very distant and formal figures to us. They look so stodgy in the old photos, or as portrayed in bronze busts, like the ones of Deeds and Kettering at the foot of the stairs here at the Engineers Club.

Well, that is just not the case. As they demonstrated at the gala dinner for 300 attendees celebrating the dedication of this building, these Daytonians were a bunch of live wires. The fun began at 6 p.m., when a siren wailed through the halls, calling the members to the dining room. Each guest was furnished with a party hat. To insure that the applause would be heard throughout the downtown area, each attendee was furnished with a hammer to pound on the dinner table.

A local newsman reported that "the 'hell raisin'" committee ...abetted by the Dayton Power and Light Company... served a side dish of surprises" to the banqueters. Those surprises began when the lights started flashing on and off. Periodically, one or more of the diners would let out a startled whoop or a surprised moan. White wires connected to batteries ran along each side of every table, hidden beneath the white linen table cloths. Every once in a while an unidentified person pushed a button, sending a charge into anyone with a hand or elbow resting on the table.

"Shrieks from the frightened guests produced additional merriment," the reporter continued. "Through it all a pair of sirens and hammers at tattoo played on the giant boilers, kept the 'hell raisin' going. A cabaret performance concluded the supper." We are not told who provided the "cabaret" entertainment, but they had a tough act to follow!

Club launches first biography of Nancy Love, WASP



l-r: Betty Darst, Nadine Nagle & author Sarah Bryn Rickman

On Valentine's Day, the Engineers Club introduced the book, "Nancy Love and the WASP Ferry Pilots of World War II," by Sarah Bryn Rickman, with comments by former WASP pilot Nadine Nagle.

For those unfamiliar with WASP, here's a summary from Wikipedia: "The Women Airforce Service

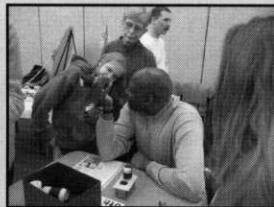
Pilots, also known as WASP, and the predecessor groups, the Women's Flying Training Detachment (WFTD) and the Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS) (official from September 10, 1942) were each a pioneering organization of civilian female pilots employed to fly military aircraft under the direction of the United States Army Air Forces during gender-sensitive days of World War II that eventually would number

in the thousands of female pilots, each freeing up a male pilot for combat service and duties. The WFTD and WAFS were combined on August 5, 1943 to create the paramilitary WASP organization...WASP training spanned 19 groups of women including The Originals, or WAFS lead by Nancy Love, and The Guinea Pigs, Jacqueline Cochran's first of 18 classes of women pilots."

"When I learned that Nancy Love was born on Valentine's Day and the book was just being released at this time," said organizer **Betty Darst**, "it seemed like the Engineers Club was the best venue to launch this book. Sarah had edited **Rhine McLin's** father's papers. Rhine stopped in early to get her personal copy of the book. Nadine Nagle, who is a great mentor to us all, gave a tribute to Nancy Love and to Jackie Cochran, with whom she served with during World War II.

"Sarah left newspaper publishing to devote herself to the stories of the WASPS," Betty said. "Nadine retired as a teacher in this area impacting the lives of young people. During World War II Nadine's husband was shot down over Europe. She felt that she should take his place, and so learned how to fly and was selected as a WASP."

Tech Fest



The Engineers Club's interactive learning area at the Tech Fest sponsored by the Affiliate Societies Council (of which the club is a member) on Feb. 16 and 17 drew hundreds of youngsters to Sinclair Community College's Building 2. A popular destination for solving hands-on problems for different age groups, the Club booth required a lot of help. Thanks to the volunteers who made it a success.

Members assisting head-honcho-organizer **Leatha Stewart** (assisted by husband Jim, son Andy and granddaughter Fiona Stewart) were **Dick Behymer, David Drumm, Edith Jerd, Jerry Jerabek, Randy Ray, Tobey Cordell, Ann Taylor, Jim Papa, Mike and Joyce Kohli, Ann and Glenn Stoops, Steve Smith, Bob Ellefson, Dwight Rust, Bill Evans, Ben Graham, Steve Duckro, Bob Kidder, Barret Ramey, Jack and Betty Darst, Harvey Tuck, Chuck and Betty Martel, Clark Beck** and his grandson Emory, Debi Talentino of the National Composite Center, **Debbie Anderson, Dick and Jackie Palmer, Harry Seifert** and his grandson Tanner, Gurav Jain, Nikhil Agarwal, **Bill Evans, Larry Jenkins, Dave and Irene Crawford**, and Gavin and Carol Jenny along with Emily Jenny.

Tom Crouch remembers

In his closing remarks at the gala, Tom Crouch offered a memory from his youth.

For 90 years, the Engineer's Club building has been an intellectual and social focal point for the individuals whose achievements put Dayton on the national and international map. At least that is the way in which one young Daytonian saw things half a century ago.

In 1958, I was a thirteen year old boy, already fascinated by local history. When my parents shopped at Sears, just up Monument Avenue, I would occasionally stroll along the Miami River to Newcomb Tavern, which then stood near the spot where the first settlers came ashore in 1796. The building was filled with dusty reminders of the pioneer years. While I was interested in that period, I realized that Benjamin Van Cleve, Daniel Cooper and the other founders of the city were purely local heroes, their names entirely unknown outside the Miami Valley.

When I turned and looked across Monument Avenue, however, I saw the Engineer's Club, a building that symbolized the achievements of a later generation of Daytonians who shaped the history of the 20th century, and spread the fame of their city around the globe. I have spent this evening reminding you of the historic role that the Club played in years gone by. In closing, however, I want to remind you that the people who founded and built the Club... looked to the future, not the past.

For my money, the Club still has a vital role to play, reminding Daytonians of where they have been, and continuing to point the way to the future.