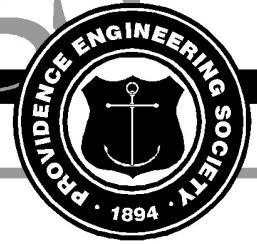


Engineerings

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April 2002 Volume 77 Number 5

URI Transportation Center To Hold Transportation Week Event

MAY Transportation Week Buffet Breakfast Speaking Program To Feature Transportation and Homeland Defense

Dramatically different understandings of security have altered the views of many about how our transportation systems operate and the standards to which they should be designed. We have entered an era when the unexpected has become our concern and the priorities for investments are changing. Different parties suggest that there is either no standard to which we should work or that we must protect against all possible threats.

Public agencies with responsibility for moving people and goods, for maintaining public infrastructure, and protecting life as well as commerce are learning a new language. While some believe they are highly unlikely to face a terrorist threat, they also do not want to have one happen to their facility on their watch.

Mr. Tad Widby will review how this evolving topic of homeland defense is unfolding for the transportation sector at the **URI Transportation Center's Buffet Breakfast Meeting** to be held on **Wednesday, May 15, 2002** during Transportation Week. He will discuss how states, local governments, transit properties, airports, and ports are responding. He will review lessons learned from others around the world as well as key topics being considered in security reviews, first responder training, and consequence management.

For more details and reservation information regarding this upcoming event, please contact Gail Paolino at the URI Transportation Center (874-4834), or at gpaulino@uritic.uri.edu.

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Calendar of Events

For up-to-date event information, go to the PES Online Calendar, accessible through the PES Website at www.provengsociety.com.

AFFILIATES, PLEASE NOTE: Be sure to forward your event information to the PES Office at proveng@netzero.net for posting.

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New Economies in Steel Framed Buildings Earns T. R. Higgins Award

Chicago, IL — February 18, 2002 – W. Samuel Easterling, Associate Professor and Assistant Department Head, Virginia Tech, has been selected as the American Institute of Steel Construction, Inc. (AISC) 2002 T.R. Higgins Award winner. This years Higgins Award is awarded based on the topic of long-span composite slabs. His work has the potential to lead to new economies in the design and construction of steel framed buildings. The use of 16 ga deck can increase spans from the current 8-10' on typical structures to 15'. The increased spans can result in significant cost savings due to a reduction in number the filler beams and their connections.

Each year the AISC Education Foundation and a selected jury selects an outstanding lecturer and author whose technical paper(s) are considered an outstanding contribution to the engineering literature on fabricated structural steel. The Higgins Award will be presented at the 2002 North American Steel Construction Conference (NASCC) in Seattle, WA, April 24-27, 2002. After W. Samuel Easterling presents his paper "Development in Long-Span Composite Slabs" at the 2002 NASCC, it will be presented at six or more cities throughout the United States in 2002 as a part of AISC's continuing education seminars. For more information about the Higgins Award or other AISC awards, visit the AISC website at www.aisc.org/competition.asp.

Larry's Corner

by L. Robert Smith F.ASCE
Past President, Providence Engineering Society

"You Might Be An Engineer If..."



Recently a comedian was in vogue with a routine about "You might be a Redneck if...". This spurned the inevitable knock-offs on the internet including one on engineers. I really didn't think it that funny. You see, I know I am an engineer. It is not just that I walk around with an engineer's scale and pens in my shirt pocket. (However, I don't use a plastic pocket protector. As an undergraduate in college, I did carry a slide rule, everywhere. I did not hang it from my belt.) I do things that I am told only an engineer would do. People who don't know I am an engineer just think I am "anal compulsive". I will leave it up to the readers to decide. A few of the pertinent cases are:

I wired my house some 25 years ago. In the time ensuing, I have had circuit breaks trip on less than half a dozen occasions. If circuit breakers go long periods of time without any usage, they can freeze-up. As a result I regularly exercise my circuit breakers. I go to the board and work each breaker back and forth, a number of times. The only problem with that is that digital clocks, microwaves, VCRs, TVs, etc. lose their settings. As a result they then requires a special trip around the house to reset all of them. I only do it, now, when Daylight Saving Time kicks in and kicks out. I have to reset everything, then, anyway. In truth, I have been known to do it at other times: whenever the power goes out at home, of its own volition.

I live by myself. My kitchenette set has four chairs. I sit in one exclusively. When I have company, they will usually sit directly across from me, if it is one person. Usually if it is four or more people, we will utilize the dining room. As a result, one chair gets heavy usage. A second gets light usage. The other two get almost no usage. A couple of years ago, I had to replace the chairs, because **ONE** had worn out. The new chairs I ordered came with casters. The first of every month I now rotate my kitchen chairs. I use the same rotation pattern that used to be utilized for non-radial tires, without using the spare. These chairs will be left to someone in my will.

I had read an article recommending the occasional pouring of a capful of a particular brand of mouthwash into the toilet bowl. This is to help kill germs, theoretically. I took it to heart. Whenever I rinse with this mouthwash, I spit it out into the toilet bowl. Double dipping I guess. When I go to brush my teeth, I start the hot water tap running. I wet the toothbrush with that water. By the time I am through brushing, the water is warm enough to start to wash my face. However, this practice may stop. I saw a product that is available that is a re-circulating pump. It measures the temperature of the water in the hot water line, just before the faucet. When the temperature drops by ten

Turn to "YOU MIGHT BE AN ENGINEER IF..." on Page 4

"YOU MIGHT BE AN ENGINEER IF..." continued from page 3

degrees below the setting it pumps the water back to the hot water heater until the water comes up to temperature. It is supposed to be cost effective in that you are not wasting energy to heat water that sits in your plumbing lines and get cold. It also has the convenience of supplying continuous hot water. The only thing holding me back is the amount of plumbing work I would have to do inside walls. In the mean time I will have to content myself with the "Insta-Hot" I have on my sink that delivers 140 degree water on demand.

When I built my house I wanted to install two dishwashers. One to go on either side of the sink. The biggest problem with a dishwasher, to my mind, is unloading the dishes, after they are done. My plan was to not unload the clean dishes. I would just use them directly from the dishwasher. The dirty dishes would then go into the other dishwasher. When that was full, I would reverse the cycle. My beloved ex-wife-to-be, the general contractor, and the plumber all nixed that idea. I still think it a great plan. If I ever build another house, I plan to install two dishwashers.

When I go to the gas station, I charge my gas to a house account. No matter what the final pump total is, they simply write it on a slip. For some strange reason, I always round to the nearest 25 cents. It just seems neater that way.

Twice a day, when I feed the cat, I change her water. She never finishes all the water I had previously given her. I utilize the left over water by pouring it onto plants in the house.

My house has plaster walls in a stucco pattern in my living room and dining room. There are all sorts of holes, gaps, ridges, etc. in the plaster. If I go to move a picture and take out a picture hanger, it leaves a minute hole that blends in with the stucco plaster. However, I will always fill the hole with "spackle". It wasn't part of the original plaster job, so it is filled.

I have batchelorhood down to a science. I own about 60 dress shirts and probably the same number of casual shirts. I can go months without having to stop at the dry-cleansers. I hang the shirts on plastic hangers. The hangers are colored. I try to hang each shirt on a matching color hanger. This gets tough on plaids and stripes. If there is not one predominant color, I use brown hangers as a default.

As I said, I know I am an engineer. I am not sure the things that I have listed above are as a result of my being an engineer. Maybe I am "anal compulsive".

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Letters, story ideas, and material are welcomed and encouraged. If you have an opinion, press release, or story that you feel is worth sharing, forward it to me via fax at (401) 823-4850 or mail to: Techwrite Services, 3 Congdon St., Coventry, RI 02816, or by Email via royb94@aol.com.

Corporate Member Spotlight

Personal Relationships are Key to Maguire's Success



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2002 Annual Banquet Photo Album



PES President George Monaghan offers a warm welcome to the assembled audience



Howard Sherman offers the invocation as the head table looks on



Lt. Governor Fogarty extends the governor's welcome and congratulations



Joseph Pratt accepts the Society's prestigious Freeman Award




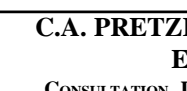


Donald L. Stanford accepts the Society's Humanitarian of the Year Award



Guest speaker Gen. Reginald Centracchio accepts a token of appreciation from PES president Monaghan

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