

George Edwards' Scrapbook



Nothing is easier than fault finding; no talent, no self-denial, no brains, no character are required to set up in the grumbling business.—ROBERT WAST

Now sonic energy is used for scrambling an egg inside the shell, setting cotton on fire with a whistle, floating cork in mid-air, making a water fountain without a pump, and many other purposes.

"So what?" was my first reaction. Then I remembered Michael Faraday's answer when he was asked what good his newly invented gadget was that generated a slight current by cutting magnetic lines of force.

"What good is a new-born babe?" was his only answer. Wish he could be around now, just long enough to see the big 300,000 kw generators that "babe" grew into.

We live in deeds, not years; in thoughts, not breaths; in feelings, not in figures on a dial.

We should count time by heart-throbs.

He most lives

Who thinks most, feels the noblest, acts the best.

—PHILIP JAMES BAILEY

Said C.E. Deakins, Illinois Institute of Technology, "Each year the nation needs, for replacement alone, about 30,000 new engineers. But this June colleges expect to graduate but 24,000—only 19,000 in 1954 and 17,000 in 1955."

I'm too old to shed even crocodile tears over this sad situation. We in the power field know that a product is only as good as the manufacturer's engineering department.

Yet an equipment salesman (who often has little engineering background) may earn so much more than the engineer who designs his superior product that there's little incentive for a youngster to burn the midnight oil. He can earn more money—and sooner, by following some other line. I may be wrong, but I'd like to hear from you readers.

I see where my friends at the Commonwealth Edison and Public Service of Northern Illinois have put their radar trouble-shooter to use. They have used it for spotting breaks in overhead electrical lines. But now they locate damaged buried cables.

This uses same principle as military radar, only here the impulses travel over a wire instead of through the air. When a fault develops in a line or cable, the fault locator is hooked up to one terminal. The radar impulse travels to the point of damage and returns. The elapsed time, translated into distance, shows about where fault is. Looks like they should save plenty of man-hours locating breaks with this method.

All truth is safe and nothing else is safe; and he who keeps back the truth, or withholds it from men, from motives of expediency, is either a coward or a criminal, or both.—MAX MULLER

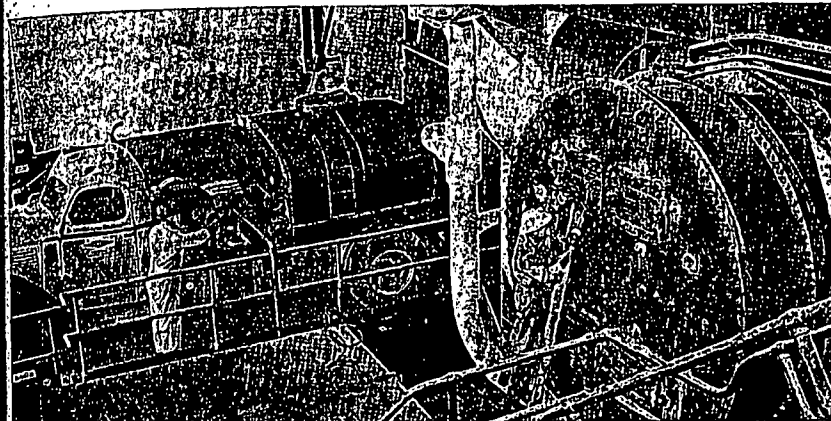
Application Engineer Carl Ritter of Taylor Instrument Co's flew back from Saudi Arabia with some interesting stories. Said one headache power engineers have in the refineries is sand. "Our boys have learned to control movement of shifting sand dunes, all right, by dumping oil on them. But fine rock material (less than 1/256th of a millimeter in dia) often remains suspended in atmosphere. When this fine sand collects on working parts of an instrument, for example—you know what happens. Also, the small pebbles (greater than 1 millimeter in dia), that blow about in sandstorms, raise hell. Combine these hazards with variations from 50 to 140 F temperatures in the shade, and you have problems."

Think I'll stick around the U.S. a little longer. Maybe I should see America first, after all.

George Edwards
Engineer

CHEMICAL CLEANING SAVED 400 TONS OF COAL PER YEAR

Fly ash, soot and carbonate deposits removed from condenser by Dowell; vacuum increased



Fly ash and carbonate deposits on the water side of an 800-KW turbo surface condenser had reduced vacuum from a normal 28" to 24". The temperature of the water leaving the condenser had dropped from 95°F. to 85°F.

These deposits were removed by Dowell Service with specially prepared liquid solvents. Result: the condenser was restored to its normal operating efficiency. The steam requirement was reduced by 2.5 pounds per kilowatt hour. On the basis of 8,000 hours of yearly operation, the plant engineer calculated a saving of at least 400 tons of coal per year.

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