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October 20, 1944

TO WOMEN MEMBERS
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

I was delighted with the response to my letters suggesting that we all become better acquainted. The last letter arrived in August, and, although some have not been heard from yet, I believe the ones already received should be sent to you now. Summaries of and quotations from these letters are enclosed.

It is interesting that Mrs. De Bord is a member of Tau Beta Pi. I wonder if others may not be also. At the time the question of my admission to membership was being considered, it was found that women were not eligible. This ruling has evidently been changed.

Miss Hall suggests that we form some sort of organization. If any of you have any comments to make on this suggestion, I think it would be fine for you to write her or me. It seems to me that the desirability of an organization would depend upon the value of it to us and to others. Would an organization help us to keep in touch with each other and is this desirable? Could we be of help to each other professionally? Should the women who are in the field of civil engineering attempt to promote the entrance of other women into it, or do you feel that the going is so difficult that a girl is not likely to make a success unless she, without encouragement, has the stamina to complete her engineering studies? Could we be of help to girls wondering whether to go into civil engineering by advising the engineering schools that the women members of the Society will be glad to consult with prospective women students?

Those of you who did not reply--or who did not receive my original letter--are urged to do so still.

I am sure that I express the thoughts of all of you when I thank Mr. Seabury for his part in making this little news letter possible.

With very best wishes, I remain

Yours very truly,

Margaret Woolverton

Margaret Woolverton
Traffic Engineer

(Encl.)



THIRTY-THREE WEST THIRTY-NINTH STREET
NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

October 20, 1944

TO THE WOMEN MEMBERS OF THE
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

Dear Member:

I believe that Miss Woolverton's undertaking to obtain biographical material from the Society's women members and her idea in bringing about a closer relationship is most commendable. As you know, the thought originated with Miss Woolverton and she has carried on the correspondence all on her own initiative.

I have read with interest the remarks made by Miss Hall in Miss Woolverton's letter and these contain some excellent suggestions, and if this office can be of assistance in carrying out such a program I trust that you will call upon me without hesitation.

Meanwhile, I believe that since you are all civil engineers it will be well for you to work out your program and policy and then present it to me when there is an agreement among you. The Society is proud and, as a matter of fact, so is the entire civil engineering profession that the young women of America possess the initiative and perseverance to prepare for our learned profession.

With all good wishes, I am

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George T. Seabury".

GEORGE T. SEABURY
Secretary

CAMBRA, JESSIE G.

"I was very pleased to receive your letter and would like to hear about the other 16 women.

"I received my diploma in May, 1942 from the University of California. Before graduation, I did some work drafting and computing lot surveys.

"The day after I graduated, I went to work for Bechtel-McCone-Parsons Construction Corp. as field engineer. We put in some new units for Standard Oil Co. in their Richmond, California plant. I had charge of the blue print files, drafting and computing all rigging sketches and small changes which often came up in the field."

The letter continues to say that, after this job was finished, Mrs. Cambra worked in the San Francisco office of the firm. The assignments which she had there were: calculating pipe sizes for flow diagrams, pump specifications, heat exchanger specifications and designs of pressure vessels, in charge of order desk, designing foundations and rigid frames, writing bills of materials, specifications and filling out WPB forms.

"I left Bechtel-McCone-Parsons the first of the year and went to work for the Alameda County Engineer. I started on cross sections and contour maps. I am now designing rigid frame concrete bridges."

Mrs. Cambra was married in November, 1943 and hopes to go on with her career as a civil engineer.

DE BORD, MARIANNA

"Your letter was of special interest to me, as I was at that time busy writing to the other twelve girls of Tau Beta Pi to find out something about them. I was interested to find out how many girls are Am.Soc.C.E. members. I wonder if any of them are the Tau Beta Pi girls I wrote to."

Mrs. De Bord graduated from the University of Illinois in June, 1943 and worked for five months at the General Electric Supercharger Laboratory in Fort Wayne, Indiana. In December, 1943 she was married and moved with her husband to Kingsport, Tennessee. She has not worked since her marriage, but might begin again were her husband to enter the Service.

EAVES, ELSIE

"This is to let you know that I think you have an excellent idea."

Miss Eaves is one of the four women Associate Members of the Society. She is the manager of the Business News Department and Director of Market Surveys for "Engineering News-Record".

FEINDT, MARY

"It would indeed be very interesting to know about the other women who are members of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

"I first became a student member of the Society in 1937 when I was attending the University of Michigan. I shall never forget the first meeting of the Society that I attended. It happened to be a smoker and it took quite a while for me to gather up enough courage to attend. I walked in the room and grabbed the first seat I could find.

"I graduated from the University of Michigan in 1938 and since that time I have been employed as assistant engineer for the Charlevoix Abstract and Engineering Company.

"In a small place, such as Charlevoix, an engineer has to be a 'jack of all trades'. I work in the field as well as in the office and have to do everything from digging ditches and cutting brush to help settling disputes. I prefer working outside as there is always a new problem to be solved or a new experience to be gained.

"The story my employer likes to tell on me is about the time he came along and found me out in the lake perched on a sawhorse and running the transit which was set up in such a way that the instrument was just above the water. The fellow whom I had helping me that day was wearing hip boots and so he carried the sawhorse out, then the instrument and then he took me out on his back.

"Still another experience I remember was the day we were meandering the lake shore and to save cutting brush we decided to do our work along the shore in the water. However, the water suddenly became too deep and we had to resort to an old boat we found along the shore. My helper rowed and I bailed as fast as I could to keep going.

"Most folks are quite curious when they see me out working and very often I have an audience while I work. There are some, though, that resent my presence, such as the man who put up the sign after I had left which read, 'NO TRASPASSING. THIS INCLUDES SURVEYORS'.

"The engineer in the small town is like the country doctor in that he has to make the best of what he has. Sometimes this requires a great deal of ingenuity, but there are times when even ingenuity will not work, such as the time when I discovered the man who was helping me did not know how to read and when I would tell him to hold a particular number on the chain I discovered he was holding just any number.

"One experience that stands out vividly in my memory is the time I fell in the manhole. We had been taking levels for a sewer that was to be placed and naturally when the manhole was being built I wanted to examine it, but the dirt around the manhole gave away and I landed at the bottom.

"When I went to Charlevoix, it was my plan to stay there for four years so I could obtain the required experience to become a registered surveyor. About that time I decided to get married and so now I plan to have my career here. My husband is not an engineer, but he takes a real interest in my being one. Right now he is helping me in campaigning for the office of County Surveyor.

"At the present time I am on leave of absence for four months to take further work toward my master's degree in civil engineering at the University of Michigan."

HALL, JANE

"I think you have an excellent idea in having the women Am.Soc.C.E. members get acquainted as much as possible. In fact, I am in favor of some type of organization if it can be managed. If you ever feel as though you need any help in getting the women acquainted, feel free to call upon me for whatever service I might be able to give.

"I have been interested in civil engineering ever since my sophomore year in high school. I graduated from the Missouri School of Mines in 1941 and am now working for Curtiss-Wright as junior stress analyst.

"When in college I wrote some of the women who then belonged to Am.Soc.C.E. and received some very interesting letters. Then, when I was in New York, I had the pleasure of meeting Elsie Eaves."

HARRISON, EVELYN

"I am in complete agreement with the idea conveyed by your letter and would be interested in knowing about the other women members of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

"I received my degree in civil engineering from the University of Maryland in 1932. Since then I have done graduate work in Educational Psychology and Public Administration at George Washington and American Universities. My first employment was with the Geological Survey of the Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C., and in 1938 I was transferred to the U. S. Civil Service Commission, also in Washington, where I am today. My original appointment in the Commission was in the Engineering Examining Unit, and my work was concerned with the recruitment and placement of men and women qualified in the engineering and related fields. My present work in the Commission consists of administrative and technical details relating to the various phases of recruiting, examining and placement of personnel in all fields, as well as certain administrative functions incident to my position as Assistant Chief of the Division.

"One of my assignments which I enjoyed very much was a recruiting trip a short time ago, which included visits to many engineering colleges and universities throughout the western part of the United States.

"The work of the Commission is very interesting, particularly in the face of the tremendous job it has been called upon to do in the last three years.

"I shall look forward with pleasure to hearing about the other distaff members of the Society."

JENSEN, MARY ESTHER

Mrs. Jensen is teaching Mechanical Drawing at Purdue; plans to resign from the Society because she feels "my connections with Civil Engineering are not of such a nature as to merit my keeping up my membership in Am.Soc.C.E."

LUX, ENSIGN KATHLEEN

"Immediately after graduating from the Civil Engineering School of Purdue University in May, 1942, I began working for the Indiana State Board of Health as a junior sanitary engineer. After eight months of very interesting work there, I decided to join the Waves. Since March, 1943, I have been on duty in the Bureau of Yards and Docks here in Washington. Last July I was admitted to the Civil Engineering Corps of the Navy.

"I think it is very fine to compile information on women members of the Society."

SHELLEY, THEDA P.

"I think it is a very good idea for all of we women members of the American Society of Civil Engineers to become better acquainted.

"I graduated in Civil Engineering from the University of Arizona in May, 1943. In June, I was employed by the TVA as a junior hydraulic engineer. My main duties were forecasting river flow and research work on surface water and ground water run-off."

Mrs. Shelley was married in March, 1944 to a mining engineer. He is now in the South Pacific, a Navy officer.

"I am now working as junior hydraulic engineer for the Ground Water Division of the Geological Survey in Tucson, Arizona. The work, which is very interesting, is mostly concerned with the ground water table here in Arizona.

"Are there any other women members here in Arizona? I haven't seen any of them at the meetings, but I may have missed them."

THOMPSON, VIRGINIA

"In answer to your note, I do think it would be a good idea to know something of the other women members of Am.Soc.C.E."

Miss Thompson graduated from the Oklahoma A & M College in June, 1941. She originally studied engineering with the idea of becoming an engineering librarian. However, she changed her mind and decided to be an engineer.

"I decided upon an hydraulic laboratory called the U. S. Waterways Experiment Station, located about five miles from Vicksburg, Mississippi. During the first year, I worked in the hydraulics and drafting sections. Then I got into the soil mechanics section of the Laboratory."

After a year and a half there, Miss Thompson reports that; "Stories of the Alaska Highway floated down even into Mississippi and with these stories the urge to see for myself the land of THE PAUL BUNYAN. Thus the sojourn into sunny Alberta and the Canadian Rockies."

WOOLVERTON, MARGARET

"I graduated from Stanford University in April, 1937. The following fall I started working with the Union Oil Company of California in Los Angeles as an

apprentice engineer. I worked first in the Geology Department and then in the Field Department. After two years, I decided that I did not wish to continue any longer in petroleum engineering. So, I resigned and studied traffic engineering. I attended the National Institute for Traffic Safety Training at the University of Michigan in the summer of 1939.

"The following spring I became traffic engineer for the San Bernardino, California Traffic and Safety Commission and, a few months later, for the Citizens' Safety Council of San Bernardino. While in San Bernardino, I found it necessary to work as an unsalaried volunteer in order to gain the experience necessary to progress in my new field.

"In January, 1942 an opportunity came to go to Stockton, California as Traffic Coordinator for San Joaquin County and I again became a self-supporting individual. I remained in Stockton until December, 1942, when I became Assistant Safety Engineer, Sacramento Air Service Command, U. S. Army Air Corps. The work was somewhat different from anything that I had done before--was industrial safety with civilian employees of the Air Depot.

"In July, 1943, I returned to traffic engineering and moved to Chicago to accept a position with the National Safety Council. I am now Traffic Engineer and located in the Traffic and Transportation Division. My work falls into two categories. One is consultation with various branches of local and state government and local safety councils. The other is the preparation of materials on traffic accident prevention."

ROSTER OF WOMEN MEMBERS
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

- *BARNES, MARIAN E. (Jun. '34), 4843 West Hayward Pl., Denver 12, Colo.
- *BARNETT, MRS. EMMA FRANCES (Jun. '43), Design Engr., Crocker & Ryan (Res., 760 Marion St.) Denver 3, Colo. (Mrs. Barnett was formerly Emma Frances Bowen.)
- CAMBRA, MRS. JESSIE L. (Jun. '42), Alameda County Engineer Office, (Res., 3950 Lyman Road, Oakland 2, Calif.), Oakland, Calif. (Mrs. Cambra was formerly Jessie Giambroni.)
- *CHASE, MARGARET L. (Jun. '44), Stress Engr., Edward G. Budd Mfg. Co., 2500 Hunting Park Ave. (Res., 215 E. Johnson St.), Philadelphia 44, Pa.
- DE BORD, MARIANNA (Mrs. Carl), (Jun. '43), 512 W. 46th, Kansas City, Mo. (Mrs. DeBord was formerly Marianna Schroeder.)
- EAVES, ELSIE (Assoc.M. '27) Manager, Business News Dept., and Director of Market Surveys, ENGINEERING NEWS-RECORD, McGraw-Hill Publishing Co., Inc., 330 W. 42nd St., New York, (Res., 18 3d Ave., Port Washington) New York
- FEINDT, MARY (Mrs. J. L.), (Jun. '38), Asst. Engr., Charlevoix Abstract and Engineering Co., Charlevoix, Mich. (Mrs. Feindt was formerly Mary C. Bastian.)
- *GITTINGS, MRS. ELISABETH FISHER (Jun. '42), Junior Electrical Engineer, Naval Ordnance Laboratory, Navy Yard (Res., 4644 Hillside Rd., S.E.), Washington 19, D. C.
- *GRONBERG, MARGARET J. S. (MRS.) (Jun. '44), Instr., Civ. Eng., Southern Methodist Univ. (Res., 3102 St. Johns Drive), Dallas 5, Texas.
- HALL, JANE C. (Jun. '41), Stress Analyst, Curtiss-Wright Corp., Lambert Field, Robertson (Res., 1461 Sproule, St. Louis 10), Missouri.
- JENSEN, MARY ESTHER (Mrs. A. E.), (Jun. '33) 329 Russell St., West Lafayette, Indiana. (Formerly Mary Esther Poorman)
- LUX, ENSIGN KATHLEEN F. (Jun. '42) 1713 Rhode Island Ave., N.W., Washington 6, D. C.
- *MILLE, BETTY M. (Jun. '43), Weight Analyst-B, Lockheed Aircraft Corp., Burbank (Res., 1525 North Van Ness Ave., Hollywood 28), Calif.
- *MORRIS, RUTH E. (Assoc.M. '39), Architect, 7340 Reading Rd., Cincinnati 16, Ohio.
- *RIDER, JANE H. (Assoc.M. '31), Asst. Engr., Corps of Engrs., U.S.A. (Res., 534 West Latham St.), Phoenix, Ariz.
- SHELLEY, MRS. THEDA M. (Jun. '43), 629 North Wilson, Tucson, Arizona. (Mrs. Shelley was formerly Theda M. Plumb.)
- *SOROKA, MARY OLGA, (Jun. '27; Assoc.M. '36), Associate Engineer, U. S. Engineer Office, First and Douglas Sts., N.W. (Res. 1916 'R' St., N.W.), Washington 9, D. C.
- *SWATY, VIRGINIA A. (Jun. '36) Administrative Asst. in Materials, Naval Aircraft Factory, Navy Yard, Philadelphia 3, (Res., Care, Mrs. D. G. Wilson, 316 Valley View Rd., Media), Pa.
- *THOMPSON, JOSEPHINE (Jun. '41) 1174 $\frac{1}{2}$ E. 42nd St., Brooklyn 10, N. Y.
- THOMPSON, VIRGINIA (Jun. '41) Junior Engineer, U. S. Engineer Department, APO 722, Unit 2, Minneapolis, Minn.
- *TRAVER, LENORE J. (Jun. '44), Junior Engr.-Hydrologist, U. S. Engrs., 512 Chimes Bldg. (Res., 1200 Meadowbrook Drive), Syracuse 3, N. Y.
- *WALTER, MRS. ESTHER B. (Jun. '37) Senior Engr., State Road Comm. 1340 Wilson St. (Res. 1623 C. McClung St.), Charleston 1, W. Va.

*No reply.

WOOLVERTON, MARGARET (Jun. '37) Traffic Engr., National Safety Council, 20 North Wacker Drive, Chicago 6, Ill.

American Society of Women Engineers and Architects Records, Box 1, Folder 6, Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University