

# IEEE HISTORY CENTER

RUTGERS

## STATIC FROM THE DIRECTOR

wing to IEEE publication schedules, it has not been that long since I addressed you in the last issue. I was gratified to learn that many of you

actually read the issue carefully, and I am grateful for all the feedback I have received. The responses to the humor piece on the last page will be posted as a thread to our ECHOES electronic bulletin board.

Meanwhile, despite the short time period, developments at the center have continued apace. As promised



last issue, we welcome some new faces, those of our Post-doc, our Intern. and our Graduate Assistants [see page 2]. Unfortunately, we do not as yet have a new Archivist. This lack is due somewhat to the fact that the position has become a moving target. The Archivist

represents the central information manager at the Center, and even as I seek to fill the position we are evolving, as are many institutions these days, away from traditional paper archives and toward a greater and greater role for electronic reception, storage, and transmission of this information.

We are doing more and more on our Web site, such as ECHOES mentioned above. As a backdrop, IEEE as a whole is working on migrating to a new Web site structure, while we at the Center are working with both IEEE and Rutgers to improve our individual connectivity to the relevant resources. We have just been awarded a grant by the Sloan Foundation to conduct still more research on-line (see box to right). Finally, at an IEEE Foundation retreat in September to explore worthwhile educational programs for IEEE and its Foundation to pursue in the new millennium, a top idea that emerged is that of an IEEE Virtual Museum. While the final form of, and participants in, such an enterprise are not clear, there is consensus that the History Center is the IEEE unit best positioned to explore the definitions and possibilities of this Museum, and we will be undertaking this exploration in the coming months.

In other areas, activities also continue. We teach our Rutgers courses, attend conferences, and pursue research. I am still working with the IEEE History Committee on improving the Milestones Program, including its geographical scope. To that end, I am pleased to report a new Milestone in Region 8 [see page 9], and other interesting proposals are in the works. With the completion of the IEEE Signal Processing Society project [see last

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## CENTER WINS SLOAN GRANT

The IEEE History Center has been awarded a grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation of \$138,000 (\$69,000 per year in 1999 and 2000) to explore the on-line documentation of the recent history of electrical engineering and computing.

For a few years now, the Sloan's HOTNet (History Of Technology on the InterNET) program has sought consortia of qualified institutions to establish Web sites about specific recent advances in technology, in order to explore a methodology for doing such research on-line as well as to attack specific historical issues. The cases chosen are meant to be new enough that the original participants in the technological development are largely able to cooperate with the historical research, but old enough that the importance of the new technology is clearly established. Each partner in the consortium picks one or two areas, and while the funding and Web sites are kept separate, the partners work together to solve technical and methodological problems.

Basically, the idea is to establish a Web site and post initial material, then solicit comments and additional material from the original participants, and build up a record of the technological achievement. In the previous waves, the areas covered by members of a single consortium were quite diverse. Individual topics have included the "Development of the Polymerase Chain Reaction Technique" and the "Construction of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline."

The IEEE History Center will be leading the fourth 'wave' of this program with an intentional focus on one area of technology: electrical engineering and computing. Our partners are the Department of Electricity and Modern Physics at the National Museum of American History (NMAH), Smithsonian Institution, and The Computing History Museum, Ameri-

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#### **Comings and Goings**

We are pleased to announce several additions to the IEEE History Center family. As promised last issue. I can first welcome to the Center our new Post-doc. David Hochfelder. David has come to us fresh from defending his dissertation—"Taming the Lightning: American Telegraphy, 1832-1910"—at the History Department at Case Western Reserve University under the direction of world-renown historian of technology Carroll Pursell. In addition to his historical training, David holds a B.S.E.E. from Northwestern University (1987). He is an important addition to the team. He will be teaching our Rutgers course "The Electric Century" in the Spring, and contributing to our ongoing and newly developing programs.

Another important addition is Atsushi Akera, who is with us this fall in our internship that is generously sponsored by the IEEE Life Members Fund. Like David Hochfelder and particularly like Center a biography of Cuban dictator Fulgencio Director Michael Geselowitz, Atsushi is doubly trained, with two S.B. degrees from

The newsletter reports on the activities of the Center and on new resources and projects in electrical history. It is published three times each year by the IEEE History Center.

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> > **IEEE History Committee**

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M.I.T. (EECS and STS), and a Ph.D. in History and Sociology of Science from the University of Pennsylvania. Atsushi will be editing and preparing for publication the proceedings of our 1997 Williamsburg Conference on the History of Computing.

We are also welcoming back this semester David Pompeo, our Rutgers undergraduate work-study

Finally, we would like to welcome our five Graduate Assistants from the Rutgers Department of History: Christopher T. Fisher is a sixth-year graduate student in the Rutgers History Department. His dissertation focuses on the relationship between the Civil Rights movement and the Vietnam War. Frank Freyre is writing Batista, who was toppled by the Cuban revolution. Frank lives in Freehold, NI

with his wife, Cary and three-yearold daughter, Amanda. Frank and Cary are expecting their second child in the spring. Theresa Napson-Williams is a graduate student interested in Twentieth Century American history, and the history of African Americans and women. Her dissertation examines the social and legal response to the rape of black women by white men in the Twentieth Century. Don Neske, who has recently returned to graduate school at his alma mater after working in the computer industry, is interested in military history and in the Holowould like to welcome back Charles S. 'Chip' Young, our forrecently published "Missing Action: POW Movies and the Korean War" in Historical Journal of Radio, Film, and Television, March, 1998. •

## **Geselowitz Attends Shannon Commemoration**

Fifty years ago. (October 1948) saw the publication of Claude E. Shannon's "A Mathematical Theory of Communication." This seminal paper spawned a whole new discipline — Information Theory — and has had a profound impact on many other fields, including communications engineering, signal



processing, cryptography, statistics, and even economics.

As part of a series of celebrations throughout the world, the IEEE Information Theory Society (IT-S) organized a commemorative International Symposium on Information Theory at MIT, Cambridge, MA during August 16-21, featuring a special History and Reminiscences session. The session began with a 1950s

Bell Labs film clip of Shannon with his famous maze-solving mouse, and then proceeded with presentations by IEEE Life Fellows Peter Elias, David Huffman, Jim Massey and David Slepian. This group was then joined by a broader panel of distinguished international engineers and scientists who gave brief reminiscences and fielded questions from the audience and each other. Director Michael Geselowitz was able to attend on behalf of the IEEE History Center. and also had an opportunity to address the IT-S Board of Governors. The entire session was enthusiastically received by the hundreds who attended.

The IT-S also produced a CD-ROM containing the complete contents of the IEEE Transactions on Information Theory from 1953 through 1987, which was given to all ISIT attendees. Attendees also received a reprint of Shannon's paper and a special "Golden Jubilee" issue of the IT Newsletter, guest-edited by James Massey and IEEE Fellow and IT-S Historian Anthony Ephremides. The Newsletter included personal reflections by thirteen recipients of the IT-S Shannon Award, and the announcement of special Golden Jubilee caust. Lastly and especially we awards for both outstanding papers and technological achievement.

mer GA and Intern. Chip has In addition, IT-S published in October a special issue of the IEEE Transactions on Information Theory, guest-edited by IEEE Fellow Sergio Verdu, which includes 25 invited retrospective articles from some of the foremost authorities in the fields of coding theory, Shannon theory, digital communications, data compression, networks, signal processing, statistical inference and pattern recognition.

> The 50th anniversary of Shannon's paper has also been celebrated this year by a Shannon Day on May 18 at Bell Laboratories, Murray Hill, NJ, at a special symposium June 17-19 at the Royal Netherlands Academy of Science, Amsterdam, and at the International Symposium on Information Theory and its Applications in Mexico City in mid-



Laying Telegraph lines during the Civil War.

## "I'm Ready For My Close-up, Mr. Demille"

Also in August, David Morton participated in a videotaped interview on the subject of Dr. Semi Joseph Begun, a pioneer in the field of magnetic recording and 1998 inductee to the National Inventors Hall of Fame in Ohio. Begun was a long-time poration of Cleveland, and developed nologies in biology and medicine. •

magnetic tape, wire, and disk recorders. The video segment, along with several others, will be shown to a special audience at the Hall of Fame later this year.

#### Land of 1000 Lakes

In September Center historian Nebeker traveled to Minneapolis, where he gave talks for the local local chapter of the IEEE Instrumentation and Measurement Society (on the beginnings of the elec-

tronics industry). The main purpose of the trip was to participate in a 3-day workshop on the history of computing organized by the Charles Babbage Institute; Nebeker presented a talk on "Discipline Boundaries: The Case of Signal Processing and Computer Science and Engineering". While in Minneapolis Nebeker also met with David Rhees and other staff of the Bakken Museum and Library, devoted to the study employee of the Brush Development Cor- of the role of electrical and electronic tech-

## **Nebeker at ICIP**

The International Conference on Image Processing (ICIP) is one of two major annual conferences that the IEEE Signal Processing Society organizes. This year ICIP took place in Chicago in early October. Because 1998 is the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Society, the history of the field and the history of the Society received considerable attention at the conchapter of the IEEE Magnetics ference. All attendees received a 50th Society (on the role of magnetics anniversary booklet, prepared by the Cenin World War II) and for the ter and published by the Society, and had an opportunity to order the two historical monographs and the poster published by the Center (described in the last newsletter). The conference opened with a special panel discussion on the greatest achievements to date of image processing, and all four plenary talks, presented over the next three days, were, in part at least, retrospectives. Center historian Nebeker attended ICIP, where he conducted oral-history interviews to add to the Center's impressive collection of interviews with the founders of signal processing, and he also spoke at the conference banquet about the history project. •

#### IEEE Prize Announced at SHOT

David Morton and David Hochfelder both represented the IEEE History Center at the 1998 annual meeting of the Society for the History of Technology (SHOT) in Baltimore, held October 15-17. Electrical history was well-represented on the program, with historians presenting papers on such topics as early sound recording in motion pictures (Dr. Emily Thompson, Univ. of Penn.), and the history of Heathkit (Dr. ter staff, emphasizes the role of Linnda [sic] Caporael, RPI). Dr. Julian Reittechnology and engineering in man (U. Conn.-Stamford) was also there demonstrating his progress on his CD-ROM based on the 1904 Westinghouse films. In September Julian had given a presion to educate the public as to the view to the IEEE History Center staff, since central role of technology in sociwe are advising him on his project, which is sponsored in part by the IEEE Life Members Fund.

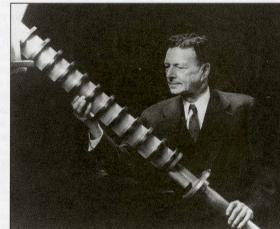
tation of the IEEE Life Member Prize in Elec-Science, Technology, and Society (STS). trical History. The Prize is funded by the IEEE Life Members, awarded by SHOT, and be the centerpiece of a revamped STS administered by the IEEE History Center. minor. Using cases from electrical history This years winner, for the best article puband other scholarly approaches to engilished in 1997 in the field of electrical and neering and science, and drawing on the computer history, was Robert G. Arns for his expertise of guest lecturers available at Rutnological Change in Social Context," Tech- Edison Papers Project and other units, the

nology and Culture 38 (October 1997):852-890. Our congratulations go out to Dr. Arns. •

## **Rutgers Courses**

This Fall, David Morton is teaching a course entitled Technology and Society in America. This course, traditionally taught by History Cen-American history from the colonial period to the present. The course is a part of the History Center's mis-

At the same time, Center Director Michael Geselowitz has designed a new course for In addition, the meeting featured the presen-This extradepartmental course is meant to



William Coolidge with X-Ray tube.

course seeks to expose students from a wide range of backgrounds to the critical issues involving technology in society. The course is being offered this semester for the first time, and initial enrollment was 20 students, 12 from engineering (4 from electrical and computer engineering), and 8 from a variety of other disciplines. Geselowitz has also been named the Program Advisor for the STS Minor, and has been working paper "The High-Vacuum X-Ray Tube: Tech- gers through the IEEE History Center, the with a variety of faculty members to promote STS studies at Rutgers. •

CORTADA, JAMES W., ed. Rise of the Knowledge Worker. Boston: Butterworth-Heinemann, 1998.

Societies have always had "knowledge workers" such as priests, medicine men, and engaging biography lawyers, or teachers. In the 20th century, however, a large part of the workforce can be so classified, as more and more people provide information or intellectual activity trical engineers will of rather than material products or physical services, and in the 1990s in the United States, knowledge workers make up half of the workforce. This economic change has, of course, been intimately related to technological changes, such as new forms of manufacturing, communication, and control. This new book by James Cortada tells the story of this transformation. Its focus is not the hardware or the software involved, though these are not left out of the story, but rather the "wetware" of the knowledge workers. It is a collection of articles, written by historians, sociologists, and economists, which appeared originally in academic publications and government reports.

The book is divided into three parts. The first Moyer concentrates on the years when addresses the question of where the knowledge workers have come from; an important partial answer is that many new informationhandling technologies, such as typewriter or early history of electrical science and techtelephone or computer, have created new classes of workers. The second is concerned with the recognition of new professions and explores changes in the classification of the workforce over time. The third part deals with social and personal consequences, such as how work is organized and how the tasks of the individual have changed. The principal aim of the book is to give managers a better understanding, through historical perspective, of the economic role of knowledge workers, but it is an excellent introduction for anyone with an interest in the rise of knowledge workers.

MOYER, ALBERT E. Joseph Henry: The Rise of an American Scientist Washington Press, 1997.

Albert Mover, a leading historian of American science, has written a clear of Joseph Henry, the most eminent American scientist of his day. Eleccourse be familiar with Henry, after whom is named the SI unit of inductance. Henry made important discoveries in the field of electromagnetism between 1827 and 1846, many of which had

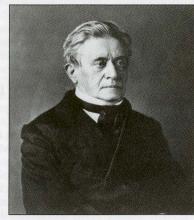
trical motors and generators. As testimony to his international scientific stature and to the esteem in which the nation's leaders held him, the Board of Regents of the newly founded Smithsonian Institution chose him as its first secretary. He held this position until his death in 1878.

Henry was an active scientific researcher at the Albany Academy and Princeton University before 1846. Readers interested in the nology will particularly enjoy Moyer's account of the friendly rivalry between Henry and the British electrician Michael Faraday as both men raced to investigate and to publish fundamental breakthroughs in electromagnetic induction. Henry also played an important role in the development of Morse's telegraph in the late 1830s and early 1840s, and Moyer provides an interesting discussion of their initial friendship and later enmity over credit for the invention of the telegraph.

KEONIIAN, EDWARD. Survived to Tell: The Autobiography of Edward Keonjian. Santa Fe, NM: Sunstone Press, 1997.

and London: Smithsonian Institution Edward Keonjian, microelectronics pioneer

and IEEE Life Fellow. has published the autobiography of a remarkable 20th censurvived direct contact with any of the great wars and associated horrors of the past 100 years probably has a unique story that should be heard, and Keonijan has seen more than most. Born into an Armenian fam-



Joseph Henry

historical story, wellpractical applications in telegraphy and elec- written and riveting. From a historical point of view it could have used more balance and context — because of his personal experiences Keonjian tends disturbingly to play down the evils of Nazi Germany so as to play up the evils of the Stalinist Soviet Union — but the story is a compelling one none the less.

ily in Tbilisi, Georgia, in

Tsarist Russia in 1909.

he witnessed and sur-

vived the Russian Revo-

lution, the Stalinist

purges, the siege of

Leningrad in World War

II, a German forced

labor camp, and a diffi-

cult journey to eventual

freedom in a new land

- America - where he

did not speak the lan-

guage and had no con-

tacts. Yet in the end he

triumphed. It is an

incredible personal and

From the point of view of interest to the readers of this newsletter, more description of his technological exploits would have been appreciated. However, despite the lack thereof, and the idiosyncrasy of the tale, there are two interesting general observations that can be made. First, it is fascinating to observe how many individuals from all over the world - and various sides of the different conflicts - came through the crucible of those times to become leading engineers, often sharing in the Fellowship of IEEE. He tells an anecdote of two engineers in his carpool at GE in the 50s - one American born who had been a bomber pilot in World War II, the other a Germanborn U-boat commander - who got to talking and realized that the former had bombed and damaged the latter's ship. This story is not unique.

The other pattern to which Keonjian conforms, and one which the History Center has documented in its oral histories and other research, is the role of early radio in bringing these pioneering electrical engineers into the field. Keonjian reports that tury life. Anyone who he was 14 when the first radio transmitter came to Tbilisi and he writes, "I felt instantly that this infant technology would be my destiny." Over the objections of his parents he became a tinkerer and eventually an engineer. It is hard for us born in the modern era to imagine the hold that this new magical science exerted over the right sort of mind. Keonijan tells that and his other stories well, and they are worth hearing. •

The Newsletter's "Bibliography" section was prepared with the assistance of Prof. Thomas I. Higgins of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, who passed away in September (see page 9)

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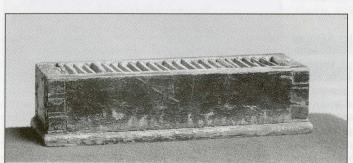
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#### (Note: New Dates)

THE IEEE HISTORY CENTER WILL BE COSPONSORING AND HOSTING AN EXCITING CONFERENCE IN 1999. HERE IS THE CALL FOR PAPERS:

# **Women and Technology: Historical, Societal, and Professional Perspectives**

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The roles of women in technology are more diverse, controversial, and important today than ever before. Historically, women's involvement in the creation, manufacture, and use of new technologies has been seriously neglected. Even today, the public has an understanding of society that usually treats women as "technological illiterates" with little stake in any aspect of new technologies. Yet since the 1950s women have tried to technologically empower themselves, particularly by entering the engineering profession. They have done so in great numbers, although today it is glaringly obvious that women are still underrepresented in engineering. Women in the field still face gender-based obstacles, expectations and biases despite decades of efforts to eradicate these problems.

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To submit a one page abstract for a paper or poster, or a proposal for a paper session or panel discussion, or to get more information, contact:

David Morton, Program Co-Chair, IEEE History Center, Rutgers University, 39 Union St., New Brunswick, NJ 08901-8538, d.morton@ieee.org

Proposals for Sessions: January 1999; Abstracts of individual papers: March 1, 1999; Your Notification of Acceptance: April 15, 1999; Your Manuscript for the Conference Proceedings: June 1, 1999.

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# Things to See and Do

## **Historic Speedwell Opens a WebSite**

Historic Speedwell is a museum located in Morristown, New Jersey, on the site where Marconi and Alfred Vail first perfected the electro-magnetic telegraph. It also commemorates the Vail family and their iron works, but it is the telegraphy connection that caused the site to be named an IEEE Milestone in 1988. Now the museum staff have established a fascinating Web site at http://www.speedwell.org. Check it out!

## Rand Opens Its Archives

The RAND Corporation marks its 50th anniversary in 1998. A non-profit institution dedicated to research and analysis in the public interest, RAND takes this occasion not only to look to the future, but also to broaden its effort to document its first half century. RAND's aim is to see this docupublications available to all who have an interest in the institution, its work, and the broad variety of subjects in which it has been engaged.

RAND is therefore inviting academic historians and analysts in the field of science and The Commonwealth WW2 Airforces

objective. Participating scholars will be Radar Reunion in Bournemouth, UK, on offered access to RAND's newly opened 13-16 May 1999. For more information archives, which are rich and diverse in con- contact Jo Whitehouse, 11 Richmond tent. RAND has conducted research across a broad spectrum of scientific, methodological and policy issues — concentrating on matters at the leading edge of public con-

Those interested in learning more about the RAND history project are encouraged to access the RAND website at www.rand.org or to contact Gustave H. Shubert, the RAND Senior Fellow who is coordinating this activity, at RAND (1700 Main Street, P.O. Box 2138, Santa Monica, CA 90407-2138, 310-451-6947), or via the internet (shubert@rand.org).

## **APS to Celebrate 100 Years**

Keep your calendar clear. The American Physical Society will celebrate its centennial in Atlanta in March 1999 with the largest mentation appear as a group of scholarly physics meeting ever held in the world. As part of the Centennial Celebration, APS is planning an exhibition, "Nobel Discoveries." More information will be forthcoming.

#### Radar Revinion

technology studies to help achieve this (RCAF-RAAF-RNZAF) will be holding their volta99@pv.infn.it. ♦

Close, Sale, Cheshire M33 2PX, UK, Tel. 0161-962-4984.

## **Engineering Heritage**

An international conference on - Preservation of the Engineering Heritage—Gdansk Outlook 2000 – is being planned for 7-10 September 1999 in Gdansk, Poland, More information is available from the Web site. http://www.pg.gda/pl/~pehgo2000.

## **European Physical Society Doubles the Voltage**

Finally, the APS celebration in Atlanta in March is important, but on 11-15 September 1999, in Como-Pavia, Italy, the European Physical Society is using its 4th Conference on the History of Physics to commemorate "Volta and the History of Electricity" on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of Volta's invention of the battery. Anniversaries in electrical history don't get much older than that. Paper submissions are due 1 May 1999. For more information, refer to the conference Web site, http://www.cilea.it/volta99 or email

## AND DON'T MISS . . .

Arc welding and other electrical welding techniques (such as resistance welding, induction welding, flash welding, electronbeam welding, and laser-beam welding) have played a large role in this century's spectacular increases in manufacturing capability. For example, the adoption of arc welding for shipbuilding during World War II meant that one person could do the work of a 4-man riveting crew: Henry Kaiser used this and other methods to reduce the time needed to build a standard cargo vessel (called the Liberty Ship) from 1.4 million man-hours and 355 days in 1941 to 500,000 man-hours and 41 days in 1943. A new edition of Jefferson's Welding Encyclopedia (American Welding Society, 1997) contains, besides historical information in many of the individual articles, a 16-page appendix on the history of welding, including a chronology of welding milestones. •

## **Fellowships Available**

#### IEEE

The IEEE Fellowship in Electrical History supports either one year of full-time graduate work in the history of electrical and computing science and technology at a college or university of recognized standing, or up to one year of post-doctoral research for a scholar in this field who has received his Ph.D. within the past three years.

Candidates with undergraduate degrees in engineering, the sciences, or the humanities are eligible for the Fellowship. For pre-doctoral applicants, however, the award is conditional upon acceptance of the candidate into an appropriate graduate program in history at a school of recognized standing. In addition, pre-doctoral recipients may not hold or subsequently receive other fellowships, but they may earn up to \$5,000 for work which is directly related to their graduate studies. Pre-doctoral Fellows must pursue full-time graduate work and evidence of collection of books, journals, manuscripts,

satisfactory academic performance is required. These restrictions do not apply to post-doctoral applicants.

The Fellow is selected on the basis of the candidate's potential for pursuing research in and contributing to electrical history. For more information and an application packet, contact The Chairman, IEEE Fellowship in Electrical History Committee, IEEE History Center, Rutgers University, 39 Union Street. New Brunswick, NJ 08901-8538, USA, history@ieee.org. The deadline for receipt of applications is 1 February. Applicants will be notified of the results by 15 April.

The IEEE Fellowship in Electrical Engineering History is administered by the IEEE History Committee and supported by the IEEE Life Member Fund.

## **Bakken Library**

The Bakken Library and Museum in Minneapolis offers visiting research fellowships for the purpose of facilitating research in its prints, and instruments. The focus of the (telephone: 612-927-6508; Bakken's collections is on the history of electricity and magnetism and their applications in the life sciences and medicine. Related materials include mesmerism and animal magnetism, 19th-century ephemera concerning alternative electromedical therapies, miscellaneous scientists' letters, and trade catalogues. The instruments include electrostatic in Cape Town, South Africa, in IEEE Region generators, magneto-electric generators, 8. It commemorates the first practical use of induction coils, physiological instruments, recording devices, and accessories.

The fellowship is a maximum of \$1,300 and is to be used for travel, subsistence, and other direct costs of conducting research at The Bakken. The minimum period of residence is one week. The grants are open to all researchers. The application deadline for 1999 is March 1, 1999. For further information, please contact:

David J. Rhees, Executive Director The Bakken Library and Museum 3537 Zenith Avenue South Minneapolis, MN 55416 USA

fax: 612-927-7265) •

## **South Africa Milestone**

We are pleased to announce that the IEEE has approved another IEEE Milestone in Electrical and Computing History, this one the Marconi system at the beginning of this century, and the citation reads as follows:

#### First Operational Use of Wireless Telegraphy

The first use of wireless telegraphy in the field occurred during the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902). The British Army experimented with Marconi's system and the British Navy successfully used it for communication among naval vessels in Delagoa Bay, prompting further development of Marconi's wireless telegraph system for practical uses.



Marconi on wheelhouse of Elettra.

The dedication is being planned for African '99 next September, and we will be sure to bring you updates in our "Things to See and Do" section. ♦

#### **Static** continued from page 1

issuel, we are exploring areas of cooperation with other IEEE Technical Societies. The IEEE Life Members Committee has generously granted us up to \$10,000 to visit the AdComs of IEEE Technical Societies this year and next.

pleased to announce a \$100,000 donation our individual Friends who really make our from the IEEE Life Members Fund to our endowment fund. The Life Members Committee has always been among our most ardent supporters, and this gift at this time will strengthen the hand of the Trustees of the IEEE History Center when they seek endowment funds from IEEE Technical Societies and other entities inside and outside Finally, in the area of fundraising, I am IEEE. As I said last issue, however, it is you

program work. This is the season of the IEEE membership renewal/profile letter where you have an opportunity to designate funds for the IEEE History center, among other causes, and you will be receiving an individual letter from me as well. I am grateful for your past donations, and I hope you will continue to support the programs we all believe in — the preservation, research and promotion of the legacy of electrical engineering and computing. •

# THOMAS J. HIGGINS, AGE 87

We regret to announce the death, on to his daughter, Janet Higgins, Professor September 11, 1998, of Thomas James Higgins. Thomas, who was 87, was a Life Fellow of IEEE and had a long, active career in industry, consulting, and education, eventually ending up as Professor Emeritus of Electrical Engineering at the University of Wisconsin. It was in engineering education that he will perhaps be best remembered in the world at large - his AIEE Fellow citation in 1957 already cited, among other things, "his leadership in electrical engineering education." However, to readers of this Newsletter, his name will be recognized from the credit given to him each issue - each issue since #3 in June 1983!- for his assistance in preparing the "Bibliography" section (see page 5). According

of Art at Middle Tennessee State University, "Dad loved teaching - his primary focus - but history and books were a close second love." Thomas faithfully and diligently scoured the literature to help us strive to keep our running bibliography as complete as possible. He was a Friend of the IEEE History Center in the literal sense, but he was also a good friend and good correspondent to the staff. He will be missed in many ways. In addition to his daughter, he is survived by his wife, Professor Mary Ellen Roach; a son, James, an electrical engineer for Boeing; and a brother Francis of Lockport, NY. He was predeceased by his first wife, Eva Louis Logan Higgins, in 1963. ♦

#### **Sloan Grant** continued from page 1

can University. The Center will be covering "Automatic Speech Synthesis and Recognition" and "Digital Audio Recording." The topics of the NMAH will be "Recent Developments in Electric Lighting" and "Alternative Methods of Power Generation." The Computing History Museum will tackle "Programming Languages" and "Software Engineering

Readers of this newsletter will be kept apprised of developments in the project, especially when it comes time to reach out and contact the original engineers involved in these various important areas of technological development. We are very excited about the prospects. •

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