

Dear Don:-

Haraden Pratt and I spent the afternoon of Dec. 14 discussing the History Committee's merger story assignment from the Executive Committee. I agreed to start assembling the record and acting as a "focal point" for collecting recollections of the discussions leading up to the decision, the efforts culminating in its implementation, and the results of our five years' experience as IEEE.

As I think I said when I responded to your suggestion that I undertake this task, I feel rather ill equipped for it. First, I brought no files with me. But more importantly, I was never personally party to any of the deliberations of the 8- and 14-man committees and their 2-man Task Forces. I don't recall having seen any of their papers, except insofar as they became part of the published record.

When I cleaned out my files before leaving the office, I put five numbered cartons into storage. One of these, Box #2, I put a binder labeled "Merger Papers". It is doubtful, however, that these include much

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I left a copy of the list of contents of the five cartons in storage with John Anderson. As I get further into this I may decide there is more in them than I now think. ^{For the meantime,} other than ~~highlighted~~ material, so, I will be glad to accept your offer, in a letter Mr. Pratt read to me, of whatever pertinent material I might borrow from your files. If this could include ^{appropriate} ~~pertinent~~ excerpts from the Board minutes of the two Societies, it might be useful.

In addition to the written record, Mr. Pratt and I thought it would be desirable to seek, by correspondence with the major participants in the decision and the implementation, personal recollections of the hopes, doubts, differences, and compromises that they experienced.

By way of rough preliminary outline, Mr. Pratt and I arrived at the following:

1) The purpose of this project as conceived by the Executive Committee, To educate the young - to allay remaining doubts and fears - to clear up misunderstandings as revealed by ^{member} correspondence and conversations - etc? This is, of course, for the guidance of the project rather than for most, perhaps, than an introductory statement in the article.

2) ~~Early~~ History of the founding and development of the two organizations.

2.1) Statistics of membership, meetings, publication, technical and standards work.

(3)

2.2) Similarities and differences in organization, philosophy, procedures.

2.3) Headquarters occupied

2.4) Affiliations with other organizations

3)

3) Cooperation and conflicts.

3.1) Early suggestion for merger.

3.2) Parallel and converging technologies.

4) Beginnings of serious merger talks

5) Studies leading to Board decision to recommend

5.1) *Report on the merger*

6) Discussions leading to submission to member ballot.

6.1) IRE Convention Panel

6.2) AIEE Winter Meeting Panel

7) The ballots and results

8) Implementation

8.1) Legal incorporation

8.2) Constitution and many Bylaw drafts

8.3) Regions, Sections, Branches, Groups

8.4) Staff, Space, records

8.5) Publications

8.6) Differences and compromises.

9) The Results

Financial

Technical

Organizational.

Procedure in preparation for writing.

- 1) Assemble published material
- 2) Review Board minutes
- 3) Review 8- and 14-Man Committee Reports and 2-man Task Force Reports.
- 4) Ask for retrospective comments of leaders and an evaluation of results ^{from leaders.} This might be done by submitting ^{a detailed} ~~an~~ outline of the proposed article and asking for contributions as suggested by the outline.

In view of my limited facilities and an inherent awkwardness ^{with} ~~in the way of~~ carbon paper, I think I will need ^{some} ~~quite a bit of~~ staff assistance. I can't help wishing this idea had come up a year ago, when I ^{of relatively idle} ~~still~~ had six months in New York ~~with little to do~~ ahead.

I will appreciate your comments on the outline and procedures proposed.

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