

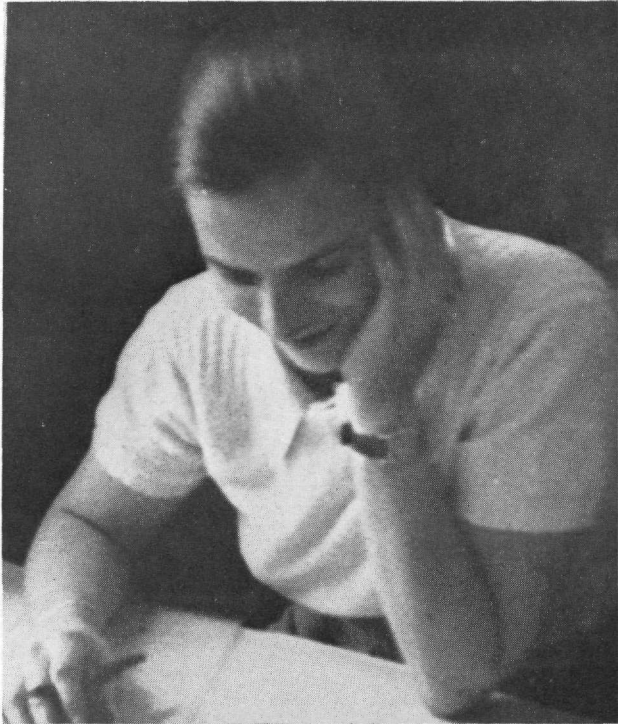
The Knowledge Bank at The Ohio State University

Ohio State Engineer

- Title:** Co-eds on the Quadrangle
- Creators:** Ankrom, Al
Engelman, Helmuth W.
- Issue Date:** Dec-1937
- Publisher:** Ohio State University, College of Engineering
- Citation:** Ohio State Engineer, vol. 21, no. 2 (December, 1937), 16, 18.
- URI:** <http://hdl.handle.net/1811/35457>
- Appears in Collections:** [Ohio State Engineer: Volume 21, no. 2 \(December, 1937\)](#)

CO-EDS ON THE QUADRANGLE

By AL ANKROM and HELMUTH ENGELMAN



MURIEL YOUNGER

Architect Muriel Younger

MURIEL YOUNGER is definitely "the Chief's" daughter. The first thing one notices is that she is not a sophisticate. For instance, she feels at times that the only possible way for her to express her thoughts is to use unrefined language, although she is very definitely a lady. She enjoys chopping wood, pitching a tent, or digging ditches, and camps most of the summer time. In high school she took manual training, and is now reasonably proficient in wood, metal and leather work. Her idea is simply to play around, at the same time making something useful.

Her position in the field of architecture is interesting. Because of her very practical turn of mind, the home to her is a place to live. It should be comfortable but there is no reason why one should go to great lengths to make it a masterpiece of art. Things in general should be ornamented as little as possible, the least one can get away with being best.

As to her being a woman in a field supposedly given to men, she has little to say. She has experienced no real discrimination against her because she is not a man. The attitude is one of mutual indifference. Her explanation is that there are now enough women

architects to convince anyone that there is a place for any woman who chooses to enter the field, and on that basis, there is certainly no discrimination now.

When asked about the career vs. marriage situation, Muriel replied that she definitely did not intend to study architecture five years just to get married. She has not given the possibility of marriage very much thought. Her work consumes so much of her time that she does not give social questions much thought. Even at home, she still enjoys cooking because the novelty hasn't worn off. She is not in a sorority because she would have to "change character too often, and besides, I haven't got the time."

For future plans, she said, "I'm going to try to get a job."

Mary Wilkerson, Mechanical Engineer

Mary Wilkerson lived in Middletown, Ohio, all her life. She was an outdoor girl, and became a Girl Scout, camping out in the open quite often. That was all fine, but when her mother started to teach Mary the domestic arts, things began to happen. Mary enjoys food. She isn't particular about it. But she can think of plenty of things much more interesting than cooking.

Mathematics and science always fascinated her

MARY WILKERSON



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much more than leaning over a stove at just the right angle. So when Mary had finished high school, she decided to be an engineer. In the face of opposition from mother, father, older brother and sister, she packed her trunk and set out for Ohio State. She knew that many obstacles would beset her, but she enrolled in the College of Engineering anyhow.

She expected her presence to be frowned upon, but found instead that her drawing table, for instance, was almost always surrounded by any number of willing assistants. She found her professors kind, and her associates friendly and (as she feels about it) tolerant. She feels that engineering is still primarily a man's profession, with women a rarity, regardless of current opinion. "Men are undoubtedly superior to women in many fields, and women should let these alone, but in others there is hardly competition, like the case of the woman who designs the interior of the Studebaker.

She does not feel left out because she cannot attend the Engineers' Roundup, or belong to Tau Beta Pi. Says Mary: "I've always wanted to go to the Roundup, but the fellows made it for themselves, and I think it's one time they would rather be alone. (Civils please note.) And there still aren't enough women to make a difference in Tau Beta Pi. It seems to me a privilege to be in the fellows' classes, let alone their social functions."

In shop and drawing courses, Mary was at a disadvantage because they were new to her, while most of the class had had at least the elementary forms of both, but this has been equalized by now, and she enjoys both.

At times, Mary wishes she didn't like Engineering so much, because she does feel a little alone, but even then, she feels it's worth it. So we wish her luck, especially in 1940, when she leaves here.

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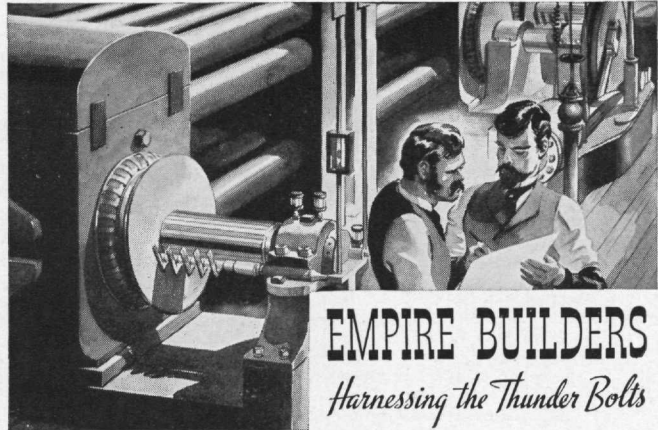
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