During the afternoon of December 18 from three until six, the agricultural engineering building was filled with the sounds of Christmas carols, children at play, and the laughter and joy of the season. Cookies, popcorn, and other refreshments were supplied by the student and staff wives, delighting the unusually large number of children and students attending the party. Shown in the center of the photograph is the Department's traditional song leader, Professor Emeritus Ray Shawl. From the left are Roy L. Mann, graduate assistant; Carlos Rodriguez, graduate student from Columbia, South America; Professor Shawl; and Professor Roger R. Yoerger.

ALUMNI NEWS

W.J. "Bill" Fletcher '50 (in addition to his full-time responsibilities as an engineer with the Farm Department of the National Safety Council) operates the Fletcher Editorial Service, 421 Burlington Avenue, Downers Grove, Illinois 60515. Bill describes the Editorial Service as an "interesting sideline."

Delmar R. Nelson '60 has changed locations and assignment with A.O. Smith, Inc. He is now an engineer in the Irrigation Division, working in the Lubbock, Texas, area.

On November 7, Leland Wolken, '67 and '68, an NDEA Fellow in the Department, successfully passed the preliminary examination for his Ph.D. program. At the recent Winter Meeting of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers, Leland was elected Vice-President of Alpha Epsilon, a national honor society in agricultural engineering.

In July, R.T. Gould '62 became supervisor of a development and design group within the Barber-Colman Company. The group includes both electronic and mechanical designers, and is responsible for the complete design of new products and for engineering support of products in production. Raymond lives at 1321 Luanna Drive, Rockford, Illinois 61103.

It is now Dr. and Assistant Professor Lester J. Thompson '65. After completing doctorate requirements at Purdue University, he accepted a teaching-research assignment in the Department of Agricultural Engineering at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. He reports that his wife, Mary, enjoys being unemployed and that his sons are showing athletic abilities. The Thomsons live at 5704 Frontier Trail, Knoxville, Tennessee 37920.
Wayne A. Peterson, '66 and '68, reports that he and Mrs. Peterson have purchased a house several miles southwest of Joliet, Illinois. Their new address is Kurt and Kent Roads, R.R. 3, Joliet, Illinois 60436.

H.D. Hadler '55 is now a project engineer for the Outdoor Power Equipment Division, J.I. Case Company, working on the design and development of compact tractors and allied equipment. His new address is P.O. Box 123, Winneconne, Wisconsin 54986.

Maurice L. Burgener, '48 and '49, recently spoke to a combined meeting of the Illinois ASAE Student Branch and the Ag. Mech. Club on new developments in uses of Portland Cement. Maurice is Director of the Construction Methods Department, Research and Development Division, Portland Cement Association. His son, David B., is an agricultural engineering student, Class of '73.

J.C. Bonnett '69 was a recent visitor in the Department. Robert M. Peart '57, professor of agricultural engineering at Purdue University, was also a recent visitor. He has been on sabbatical leave at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. Another recent visitor in the Department was Eric Johansson, agricultural engineering subject-matter specialist, Research Information Center, Agricultural College of Sweden, Uppsala.

DEPARTMENTAL EVENTS

Early on December 4, about thirty agricultural engineering students and staff members departed for Peoria to visit the Caterpillar Tractor Company. Included on the agenda were visits to the new foundry at the Mapleton Plant, the crankshaft machinery and finishing line in downtown Peoria, and the assembly lines for D5, 6, and 7 tractors. The group also viewed gear-cutting operations. The tour was a well-organized and educational one.

The fall initiation banquet for the Delta Chapter of Alpha Epsilon was held on December 5 at the Redwood Inn, Rantoul. The following undergraduates were initiated: Dwayne D. Dietz, Wyoming; Norman L. Klocke, Hoopeston; Theodore Matthewson, Pana; John L. Roll, Carrollton; and Charles Whittington, Braceville. Graduate students initiated were Lalit Kumar from India and Carlos Rodriguez of Columbia, South America. Professor E.L. Hansen, initiated as an honorary member, gave a brief talk on the subject of planning.

Thayer Cleaver (former Department staff member; presently stationed at Tuscon, Arizona, with the Agricultural Research Service) was a recent visitor in the Department. He was here to discuss with Professor Puckett and others the recently completed survey of commercial beekeeping in the North-Central and Southwest regions.

The electric power and processing portion of the Agricultural Engineering Research Laboratory is undergoing a major reorganization. Work in electrical controls, the transport of feed, and other areas of primary interest to Professor Puckett are being moved to the Agricultural Engineering Farm on South Race Street. Research on grain drying, holding, and conditioning as well as studies in the physical properties of biological materials are being centered in the laboratory on campus.

The part engineering has played in the development of the dairy automation center on South Lincoln Avenue was the topic discussed by Professor H.B. Puckett before the Urbana Exchange Club on December 3.
Professors E.F. Olver, H.B. Puckett, and G.M. Hyde were recent visitors to Michigan State University to discuss dairy mechanization. Enroute home, they stopped at Mix-Mill, Inc., Bluffton, Indiana, and conferred with R.F. Skelton '38 on the development of new farm machines and equipment.

The mid-winter Department seminar series will be under the direction of Professor E.L. Hansen, and will feature the present and proper future role of the University in the field of housing. Leading the first session on January 5 will be Professor Rudard A. Jones, Director of the Small Homes Council-Building Research Council. The following week, on January 12, Professor Seichi (Bud) Konzo will lead the discussion. Professor Konzo is professor of mechanical and industrial engineering and associate head of the department. The seminars get underway at one o'clock in Room 240, main Agricultural Engineering Building.

The preregistrations for the Grain Conditioning Conference on January 14-15, at the Illini Union, suggest a continued, high interest in this field. Programs are available through the Department and can also be obtained along with preregistration materials from Conference Supervisor, 116e Illini Hall, Champaign, Illinois 61820.

Plans are almost complete for the Illinois Farm-Equipment Dealer Clinic, scheduled for March 11 on campus.

Students, staff members and graduates of the Department were much in evidence at the Winter Meeting of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers, held in Chicago, December 9-12. Illini senior Robert J. Gustafson from Coal Valley presided at the student meetings as President of the National Council of Student Branches. Among papers presented by and/or having major inputs from Illini Staff members were the se:

1. Slife, F.W. (Department of Agronomy). Where Are We Headed in Weed Control?
5. Kumar, L. et al. Response of Papaya Fruit to Dynamic Loading.


My associates in the Department join me in the hope that your holiday season was a bright and meaningful one. May 1970 be a year filled with achievement and happiness for you and your loved ones. 

*Frank B. Lanham*