

History

Clyde M. Alston, Past Chapter President- 1958

While digging through the history archives I came across an old interview (attributed to Mr. Ralph Butler, P.E. (probably) dating back to 1994) and separate bio of the late Mr. Clyde M. Alston, P.E. Clyde was the Long Island Chapters second president. As one of the chapter's founding fathers I found his life, history and contributions to the chapter to be quite interesting and worth sharing with the chapter. Based upon the chapter's records Clyde was an active chapter member until his retirement in 1993. Clyde M. Alston passed away in 1996.

-Clyde M. Alston, P.E. has been a member of ASHRAE and its predecessor society ASHVE- since 1952. He served the society as the second Long Island Chapter President in 1959 and he has been a regular attendee and supporter of the Long Island Chapter for all the intervening years.

A graduate of the Carnegie Institute of Technology, Mr. Alston studied advanced Engineering at Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn. During his professional career, he has served in various capacities as a Construction Engineer, Project Manager, member of the firm V.P. Victor and Edwin T Metcalf and as a partner in the firm of Bogen & Alston, Consulting Engineers. During World War II, Mr. Alston was a Captain in the Corps of Engineers. At this time he was a Project Manager for the utility services at the Headquarters Camp of the Persian Gulf Command in Tehran, Iran and Engineer-In-Charge of the aforementioned work during the American occupation of Japan.

In 1952, Mr. Alston became a partner in the firm of Bogen and Alston. The firm served as consultants on numerous commercial, industrial and public buildings. Mr. Alston began his own practice in 1958 under the name of Clyde M. Alston Consulting Engineer, and since then has been responsible for the mechanical engineering on a wide range of building types including banks, recreation facilities, industrial plants, churches and special projects as sewage plants, golf courses and atomic energy facilities

In addition to his certification of Qualification by the National Council of State Boards of Engineering Examiners, he is a licensed Professional Engineer in the states of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Virginia, Massachusetts, and Ohio. Mr. Alston's professional Affiliations include membership in the National Society of Professional Engineers, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, American Society of Sanitary Engineers, Construction Specifications Institute, Long Island Building Congress, New York State Association of the Professions, American Arbitration Association, and the Consulting Engineers Council. He has also been a Director and Past President of the Nassau Chapter, NY State society of Professional Engineers, Past President of the Long Island Chapter of the American Society of Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Engineers and Past President of the Long Island Chapter of the NY State Association of Consulting Engineers, and Past President of the Consulting Engineers Council of New York State.

Mr. Alston is also concerned with both civic and community affairs and has served as past President of the Kiwanis Club of New Hyde Park and was formerly the Village Engineer and a member of the School Board of that town. He was also past president of the New York Clan of Carnegie Tech Alumni and serves as a Carnegie Tech Alumni Advisor. Mr. Alston is also a member of the Hempstead Rotary Club.

Clyde M. Alston was a dedicated engineering professional and definitely not a "desk top" engineer. From a construction worker on Pittsburgh PA job sites to Engineer-In-Charge of rehabilitation of utilities for the Tokyo District during the occupation of Japan, Mr. Alston has displayed the rare qualities of a talented professional who is equally at home in the mud of a construction site. His contributions to the chapter and the engineering community in general still resonate to this day.

Thank you Mr. Alston.

And that is another piece of the Long Island Chapter's History.

James G. Hayes
Chapter Historian