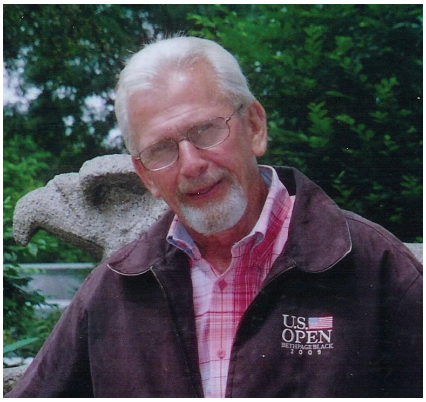
History



For this month's interview I interviewed Mr. Donald Stahl who is now happily retired.

I decided to interview him because of the praise that Joe Marino gave to him in last month's interview and he seemed like the perfect person to close out my interviews with.

What made you become an engineer?

My father! In 1953 I was aimlessly drifting my way thru my Gravesend Brooklyn Junior High School when my father bellowed and made this run-on statement:

"Your good with numbers; take the Brooklyn Technical High School entrance examination; pass the exam; become and engineer." It was more of a command than a statement.

Brooklyn Tech was a great high school and was the technical corner-stone of my engineering career. My beloved old fashioned father was the corner-stone of my life's value system.

Where did you go to school?

I attended Pratt University from 1958 to 1960 and Mechanics Institute at night from 1961 to 1964.

In between this time period I married Marianne, a wonderful Long Island girl. I then enthusiastically helped produce two children, Jamie and Jennifer, who became the stuff that dreams are made of.

What was your first engineering job and did you have any mentors?

My first engineering job was in 1960 with Joseph P. Wohlpart Associates, Consulting Engineers in NYC. On the first day of the job I met Walter Bishop, who became my mentor for 10 years and my friend for 50 years. Walter went on to become the owner and president of Walter P. Bishop Associates, P.C., a consulting engineer that enjoyed an outstanding reputation in the metropolitan New York area.

In 1976 I went to work for Lizardos Engineering Associates, P.C. (LEA). I had already known Evans Lizardos and his brother George, having done engineering "moonlighting" in the basement of their homes before they had opened the Albertson L.I. office. Thru the grace of the Greek Gods, Evans became my teacher and mentor for the next 19 years. We still are very close friends and see each other often after all these years. I retired as a Senior Associate from LEA in 1995. It was exciting and wonderful being part of LEA in the early years of the company's growth and watching Lizardos Engineering Associates become the elite consulting engineering organization it is now.

What was the memorable project you worked on?

The most memorable project I worked on was the first large new building that I served as the lead mechanical design engineer on. The project was the Fairleigh Dickenson University School of Dentistry located in New Jersey. The building was a 5 story 1968 state-of-the-art facility with special operating suite, laboratory, and animal room requirements. The HVAC systems consisted of absorption chiller units, medium pressure steam boilers, perimeter fan coil units, humidification and pneumatic-electronic temperature controls.

Being an integral part of this complex project from the conceptual design phase to building owner occupancy was fascinating to this young engineer. The interface and coordination between owner, architect, structural engineer, the engineering design team, the building trades contractors, equipment suppliers and local government authorities was a priceless education.

When the building was successfully completed and occupied by the dental school students, teachers, and administrators, I was personally proud and immensely satisfied.

I got the same feelings of pride and satisfaction on all future facility projects that I had the American opportunity to be

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part of.

What ASHRAE positions have you held? And when did you become the chapter president?

I was an active member of ASHRAE throughout my engineering career. The ASHRAE Society was the perfect mix of technology education, business opportunities, and social pleasures for my personality. It was also a way to give a little back to an industry that was very good to me and my family.

I served on most of the committee positions and chair positions of the ASHRAE Long Island Chapter, becoming the chapter's president in 1992-1993. During my tenure, the Long Island Chapter received the "Presidential Award of Excellence" for significant improvements in membership, attendance, research promotion, education, and energy management. This achievement was largely due to the support I received from an excellent Board of Governors. Ronald Kilcarr was the President-Elect during my tenure and I will always be grateful for his un-selfless efforts and support.

How has this industry changed in your tenure?

The following is a list of mechanical systems and components that were fundamental during my career. These systems and components were an essential part of a heating, ventilating, air conditioning and refrigeration design engineers' everyday application. I'm sure that most of the items on this list can now be placed in the Smithsonian Institute next to the vacuum tube and the horse and buggy.

-Dual Duct High Velocity HVAC Systems
-Irish Linen Drawing Cloth
-Reheat coil Temperature Controls Systems
-Tracing Light Tables
-Multi-Zone Units
-3-Pipe Heating & Air Conditioning Systems
-Ink Drawings
-Draftsmen's Apron
-Slide Rule Calculations
-Pneumatic Temperature Controls
-Drafting Pounce Bags
-Steam Absorption Chiller Units
-Blueprint Drawings
-Vacuum Pumps
-Monoflow Fitting Heating Systems
-Stampats
-Low Pressure Steam Radiator Systems
-Induction Units

Which technologies and outside influences have made the biggest changes to the industry and where do you see the industry going?

Obviously the computer sciences, energy concerns and environmental issues have made the biggest changes to the heating, ventilating, air conditioning, and refrigeration industry in my life time.
Having been retired a long time I cannot even venture a guess on new game changer technologies or where the industry will be going in the future. The one thing I am certain is the basic rules of all engineering projects will remain the same as they were when I was a young mechanical design engineer 50 years ago:

<u>Phases of a Project</u>

Enthusiasm
Disillusionment
Panic
Search For The Guilty
Punishment For The Innocent
Praises and Honors For The Non-Participants

Any pearls of wisdom to the current engineers out there?

Perseverance and determination alone are omnipotent. The slogan "press on" has solved and will always solve the problems of the human race. If you meld these virtues with nurturing caring and loving human relationships, everything should work out fine.

Charlie Lesniak - Chapter Historian

Please remember to send in any old ASHRAE photographs, papers, articles, and speeches of people who have been through the Long Island Chapter of ASHRAE. I would like to upload this information to