

M. E. Prof Gets Recognition

An award of merit in recognition of "outstanding work in teaching and advancing the principles of the industry and profession," has been awarded to Lester S. O'Bannon, professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering.



Lester S. O'Bannon
... receives ASHRAE award

The award was made at the semi-annual meeting of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers, which ended today in Dallas. The nomination for this award came from the Life Members Club and was approved for the national organization by the Honors and Awards Committee.

O'Bannon, who came to A&M in 1948 from the University of Michigan, has been a member of the society since 1922, while on leave from the University of Kentucky. He was working at the society's research laboratory, then located at the Bureau of Mines in Pittsburgh, Pa.

A native of Kentucky and a graduate of the University of Kentucky in 1915, O'Bannon began his teaching career at Kentucky in 1920 as assistant professor of steam engineering, later was promoted to professor of heat-power engineering. In 1935 was named head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering. From 1936 to 1946 he was research mechanical engineer for the Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station. He went to the University of Michigan in 1946 where he was research engineer and visiting professor of mechanical engineering until 1948, when he came to A&M.

ASHRAE Member

O'Bannon is a member of the Houston Chapter of the ASHRAE and until recently was sponsor of the A&M Student Branch. He is author of several papers published in engineering or scientific journals, a life member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, member of the American Assn. of University Professors, American Society for Engineering Education, Texas Assn. of College Teachers, Sigma Xi, Tau Beta Pi, Alpha Sigma Phi and Phi Mu Alpha.

Before becoming a teacher Professor O'Bannon worked in the Steam Engineering Department of the Illinois Steel Co., Chicago, Ill. After a brief term in the army (AEF, France 1918) he was employed as Efficiency Expert in the Coke Plant Department of the National Tube Co., Lorain, Ohio, another subsidiary of the U.S. Steel Corp.

Taught in Kentucky

While teaching at the University of Kentucky between 1920 and 1935 O'Bannon worked under the

direction of the late Dean F. Paul Anderson as a researcher in the field of heating and air conditioning. His pioneer experiment on the simultaneous flow of water and air in pipes supplied information for the code committee on pipe sizes for steam heating systems. Research related to steam boilers and unit heaters was of similar importance to other technical committees of the Society.

Laboratory Designer

For the Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station he designed two laboratories for experiments on the influence of temperature and humidity upon the quality of air-cured tobacco. His tobacco-curing research was cited by a supervisor in the Department of Agriculture at Washington as the "best that has been done" in that field.

Another major project at Kentucky was testing the burning characteristics of seventeen different coals in small underfeed stokers, a project sponsored by the C. and O. Railway Co.

Bearing Research

At the University of Michigan his research had to do with the performance of bearings operating with different lubricants at temperatures between minus 70 and 300 degrees Fahrenheit.

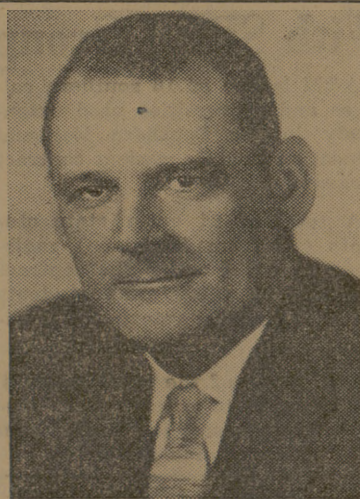
O'Bannon says that he is a living denial of advice he gives his students, that is, to specialize. He says the only thing he has specialized in is non-specialization. The list of equipment he has tested or used in various investigations—ranging from open hearth steel furnaces, boilers and engines to fuels, lubricants, tobacco, weed killers and human comfort—reads like "the index of a mechanical catalog."

"Dabbled" in Other Fields

He has "dabbled" in fields remote from engineering. On three occasions he has read papers before the division of Philosophy and Psychology of the Kentucky Academy of Science. One of these entitled "Ontology of Consciousness," is about as far from engineering as one can get.

A two-page "Condensed Theory of Education" was once prepared for a special group of his colleagues. He has lectured to engineering and scientific groups on business cycle theory, using as a basis for those lectures a three-dimensional diagram which he claims is a synthesis of business cycle theories.

Now on modified service at A&M, he says that he would like nothing better than to find time to pursue these non-engineering hobbies.



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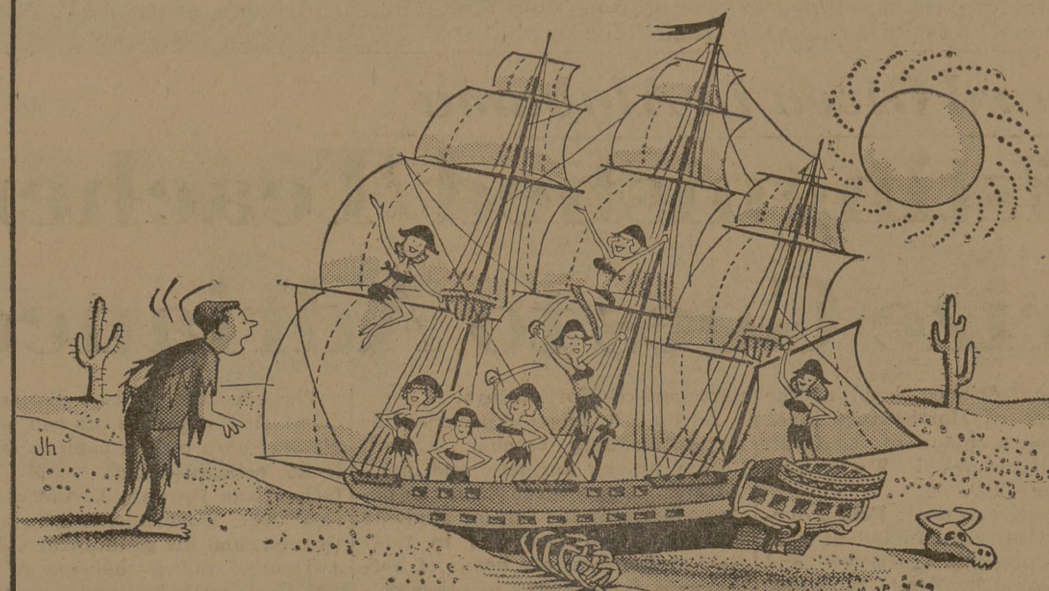
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Do You Think for Yourself?

(DIAL IN THESE QUESTIONS AND SEE IF YOU'RE IN FOCUS*)



If you saw a full-rigged sailing ship in the middle of the desert, would you say (A) "Long time no sea!" (B) "Wish they'd invent talking mirages," or (C) "Anything can happen in Las Vegas!"

A B C



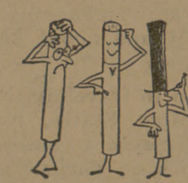
When a man says, "Brevity is the soul of wit," he means (A) he's about to make a long speech; (B) wise thoughts come in short sentences; (C) "Shut up!"

A B C



You're caught in a pouring rain—and you're offered a lift by a pal whose driving is dangerously erratic. Would you (A) tell him you enjoy walking in the rain? (B) say, "Sure—but let me drive"? (C) accept rather than hurt his feelings?

A B C



In choosing a filter cigarette, would you pick one that (A) says the filter doesn't count, only the tobacco; (B) is designed to do the best filtering job for the best taste; (C) gives you an enormous filter but very little taste.

A B C

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*If you have checked (C) in three out of four questions, you're pretty sharp... but if you picked (B), you think for yourself!



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The Battalion, a student newspaper at Texas A&M, is published in College Station, Texas, daily except Saturday, Sunday, and holiday periods, September through May, and once a week during summer school.

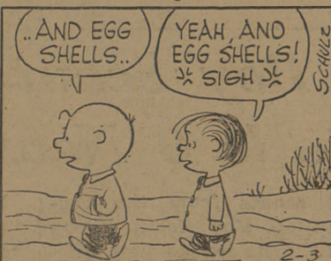
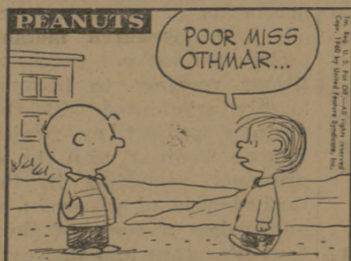
Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office in College Station, Texas, under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

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News contributions may be made by telephoning VI 6-6618 or VI 6-4910 or at the editorial office, Room 4, YMCA. For advertising or delivery call VI 6-6415.

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