ASHRAE American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Inc.

La Crosse Area Chapter
1995 - 1996

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April 2, 1996

Mr. Robert J. Lavick
Region VI Historian
Barber-Coleman Co.
329 E. Lake Ave.
Peoria, IL 61614

Subject: Gold Ribbon and Log Book of TIME Award
14th Entry - History of a Person

Dear Mr. Lavick:

I am enclosing the La Crosse Area Chapter, 14th entry, for the Gold Ribbon and Log Book of TIME Award. The La Crosse Area Chapter is extremely proud to submit the History of a Person, Clarence L. Ringquist, P.E., an engineer who contributed several ideas that advanced ASHRAE principles.

Thank you,

James M Ritter

James M. Ritter, P.E.
Chapter Historian
La Crosse Area Chapter

CHAPTER MAY NOT ACT FOR SOCIETY

HISTORY OF A PERSON

CLARENCE L. RINGQUIST

On March 10, 1975, the La Crosse Area Chapter of ASHRAE paid tribute to Clarence L. Ringquist for his reception of the grade of "ASHRAE Fellow" at the 1975 semi-annual ASHRAE meeting in Atlantic City, N.J. The enclosed information eloquently summarizes the accomplishments of "Ring."

C. L. Ringquist Night

Tonite, we have a unique opportunity -- a chance to take a technical lesson and to learn something about life -- all at the same time.

As most of us know, Mr. Clarence L. Ringquist was recently honored by our organization at the Atlantic City, New Jersey, Semi-annual Meeting and Exposition. Ring was awarded the grade of "ASHRAE Fellow." The words that describe this award sound very much like other similar distinguishing remarks:

> "For having attained unusual distinction in the arts of our society . . . "

Obviously, this does not tell the real story. I decided to look into the details. Ring's professional history portrays a busy man.

There is a saying that suggests: "If you want something done, ask a busy man." They must have been thinking about Ring when this phrase was devised.

The first evidence of hard work is his University of Illinois record. Imagine putting yourself through Engineering School while sacrificing your body to the "Tribe of Illini" 1928 Championship Football Team.

Forty-two years of outstanding service to The Trane Company is achievement enough, but not enough for Ring. His Masonic work bespeaks great dedication and enormous expenditures of time in addition to moral fiber.

Member of all La Crosse Masonic Bodies
Past Presiding Officer of all La Crosse Masonic Bodies
Secretary of Badger Lodge #345 F & AM since 1949
Past M.I.G.M. of the Grand Council of Wisconsin
Member of the Knights of York Cross of Honor
Honorary 33rd Degree Mason
Honorary Ish-Sodi Degree in the Grand Council
Honorary Member of the DeMolay Legion of Honor
DeMolay Cross of Honor

While all this was going on, Ring served as Trustee of the Wesley Methodist Church and as a member of the La Crosse YMCA Board of Directors for 26 years. Further, he was President of the La Crosse District Board of Education for 2 of the 9 years he served on that Board.

But we here are members of a technical society. How does all this fit in with our professional interests? When most of us were unaware of the air conditioning business, Ring was busy at work in ASHRAE. He has been a member of our Society for 29 years, since 1946.

One interesting aspect of Ring's technical activities are his even dozen U.S. patents. They go all the way back to 1935. I was looking through these patents the other day and discovered some interesting things.

First, let me tell a story about a project I became involved in about a year ago. It involves the Fairbanks, Alaska sewage treatment plant. To meet the latest effluent water purity standards, further treatment was necessary. In most cities, the needed aeration ponds are simply exposed to the atmosphere. However, in Fairbanks, with a minus 60°F design temperature, the ponds would freeze. So, the ponds were housed. Process air, then, had to be drawn into the buildings and exhausted. In the process, this air absorbed considerable moisture. At 60° below zero, this absorbed moisture produced quite a cloud as air was exhausted from the building.

The location of the Fairbanks Airport further complicated the problem, as the cloud sometimes closed the airport.

The solution, of course, was to get rid of the cloud. Since incoming air has great cooling potential, it could be used to cool an anti-freeze solution which could then be pumped to a demoisturing coil in the exhaust air stream. Obviously, the moisture would condense in the form of ice and a defrosting cycle and technique would be necessary.

So, after much work, we figured out a system that could accomplish the desired results.

Last week, I read patent 2,481,448 which Ring authored in 1946. I could have saved myself a lot of work, since the scheme shown on this patent appears to be applicable to the Fairbanks problem. Note the defrost cycle arrangement involving coil bypasses, and so forth.

Patent 2,702,456: In 1953, Ring filed an idea for an air conditioning system that uses heat normally rejected to the atmosphere as "free" reheat energy. What a marvelous idea! And, it has only taken us 22 years and an energy crisis to get the message. Only now is our industry seriously applying this basic concept in engineered systems and in equipment packages.

Patent 3,069,867: Fourteen years ago, in 1961, Ring applied for a patent that allows a hydronic heating and cooling system to "trade" heat gains and losses within a building. An interesting feature of this idea is its ability to use standard existing products, controls and construction materials. And, of course, it is timely concerning the execution of energy conservation.

My purpose in displaying these samples of Ring's patents is two-fold. First, it shows a fertile and imaginative mind. Secondly, and possibly more important, we see the timeliness to today's problems. Is this luck or hyperopia (far-sightedness)? We think it's more than coincidental that Ring fathered twelve patents and countless air conditioning concepts that are in every day use today. His ideas are relevant.

We've seen a glimpse of a man that has excelled far beyond the ordinary in his chosen profession. And, we've lived in the company of a contributing citizen - a man determined to unselfishly improve our lot.

Perhaps the phrase should read: "If you want something done, ask Ring."

The La Crosse Area Chapter is proud to recognize this uncommon honor given to one of our members. Would you please join me in a standing ovation for Mr. Clarence L. Ringquist -- ASHRAE Fellow.

Ring, we have no certificates or titles to hand out. But, we captured the moment at Atlantic City on film. Here is a photograph of Mr. Rickelton, the President of ASHRAE, presenting you with your well-deserved award.

Clarence L. Ringquist died on August 26, 1993, but his extraordinary vision will forever be an asset for ASHRAE.

Respectfully submitted,

James M Ritter

James M. Ritter, P.E.
Chapter Historian
La Crosse Area Chapter


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