

# Celebrating Western Pennsylvania's Engineering Achievements

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Please join me and the other 800 members of the Engineers' Society of Western Pennsylvania (ESWP) in celebrating, during National Engineers Week (February 20 – 26, 2005), the many accomplishments of this region's engineers and the positive impact that engineering has had, and continues to have, on our communities and our daily lives.

Since the founding of ESWP in 1880 — by such local industry stalwarts as Andrew Carnegie, Alfred E. Hunt and George Ferris — our region has seen a continuous succession of engineering accomplishments that have shaped our way of life. Examples of such notable accomplishments include the Smithfield Street Bridge, completed in 1883, and erection of the Frick Building in 1902 and the City-County Building in 1917. The country's first commercial radio transmission, by KDKA, took place from Pittsburgh in 1920.

The 1920's also saw construction of the "Three Sisters"—the Sixth, Seventh and Ninth Street Bridges. In 1932, Pittsburgh's then-tallest building, the Gulf Tower, was completed. The state of the art Pennsylvania Turnpike was completed in 1940. The decade of the 1950's saw completion of the Gateway Center complex, the

original Greater Pittsburgh International Airport, and the country's first commercially operated nuclear power plant at Shippingport. Likewise, the late 50's and early 60's saw completion of the Ft. Pitt and Ft. Duquesne Bridges.

Three Rivers Stadium, the U.S. Steel Tower and the fountain in Point State Park were completed in the 1970's. The 80's experienced a boom in commercial building construction, as represented by One Mellon Bank Center, One Oxford Centre, PPG Place, the Dominion Tower and Fifth Avenue Place. During the 1990's, the site of the old LTV Steel plant on the South Side was cleared, environmentally cleaned, and rejuvenated with a variety of dynamic, mixed-use facilities.

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Since the turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we have seen the development of two state of the art sporting venues, PNC Park and Heinz Field. The world class David L. Lawrence Convention Center lays claim to being the first facility of its nature to be designed and constructed with “green” building features. Last year, the award-winning Braddock Dam was completed—the first in-

land navigation dam to be constructed “in the wet” through use of innovative float-in technology.

Indeed, our region has cause to celebrate these and many other engineering accomplishments during National Engineers Week. But, for us at ESWP, this week marks only the beginning of our observances. We are very excited about the year 2005 — our 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary year! To our knowledge, ESWP is the longest continually operating organization of its type in the country. To commemorate this very special anniversary, we are planning a variety of projects and activities in which we are hoping to involve the public at large. We have undertaken a fund-raising campaign to finance these special ventures and are truly grateful for the warm reception af-

the publishing of a commemorative anniversary book that will chronicle the achievements of Western Pennsylvania's engineers over the past 125 years. Mark your calendars and join us on October 26, 2005 at the Convention Center for a commemorative anniversary dinner. We are pleased and excited to announce that our keynote speaker for the dinner will be the renowned author, historian and Pittsburgh native, David McCullough; and our master of ceremonies for the event will be WQED's documentary wizard, Rick Sebak.

Although the remainder of our anniversary projects will likely extend beyond 2005, our intent is to also produce a commemorative video, install an exhibit at the Heinz Regional History Center, and develop engineering-based educational programs for grade school and high school students at the Carnegie Science Center. We encourage you to check our website ([www.eswp.com](http://www.eswp.com)) in coming months for updates on our various anniversary activities.

Our celebration plans are, admittedly, ambitious. But, with the help and involvement of the community, we look forward to properly commemorating the achievements of Western Pennsylvania's engineers over the last 125 years. Let's kick it off with a memorable celebration during National Engineers Week!

forded our plans by virtually all of the local foundations, organizations, and individuals that we have approached for help. We have assembled a blue ribbon advisory council of local leaders, from both the public and private sectors, who are giving freely of their valuable time, and providing insightful advice and guidance to our efforts.

Our celebration plans include

