

# Screenings

from the Soil Research Lab

IOWA ENGINEERING EXPERIMENT STATION  
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
AMES, IOWA

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1962

## TAKE FIVE

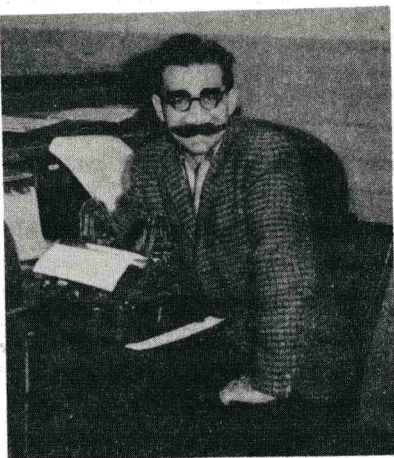
After five fat and sassy years Screenings takes a breather, and Ye Olde Ed is going to let YOU write it. That's right, all your confidential correspondence written in moments of pain or weakness and gathering dust on ye olde desk top for these many years has been combed and curried for this gala issue. Only names (like "skunk," "idiot," etc.) have been changed to protect the innocent, whose eyes must be shielded from profane comment no matter how precise. We therefore have taken certain liberties of editing and omission, and if your name is quoted you can readily explain it away—just say, "That's not how I feel at all; he quoted me out of context!" You'll be right and we'll be happy, and what else is there, when you come right down to it? Now for a quick trip to Mexico before this thing gets printed.....



To the Editor:

Enclosed we send you the booklet we received from you with the meadle sheets without any printing; we big you to inform us the reason of and, if the cause is the print, please send us a completely one.

Sondeos Inyecciones Pilotes, S. A.  
(Boring-Grouting-Piles, Inc.)  
Madrid, Spain



To the Editor:

Dammit it's NAPHTHA not NAPTHA. The fact that the soap co. and Time mag. sanction the bastard spelling doesn't make it correct. Might as well talk about ASPALT...

R. L. Bates  
Ohio State Univ.

*We're sorry*

\* \* \*

To the Editor:

We enjoy your "rag" but we note some careless errors in spelling, such as "Uninhabited (Texas)" in the map on p. 1 of 2/1. It is clear to us Texans that the word, "Uninhibited" was meant. Yours for accurate spelling and explicit meaning.

J. E. Hunt  
Texas Hwy. Dept.

*That crack wins a gift subscription.*

@ @ @

To the Editor:

...Actually, the paper is really good--just one suggestion--print it on softer paper.

R. W. Stump  
Standard Oil Co.  
Houston, Texas  
(formerly at Iowa State)

*Must have some soft, cushiony office job.*

— @ @ —

To the Editor:

...At first I thought some of it was due to typographical error, but as I read further I could see a definite elfishness peeking out.

Ernest Slade, Pres.  
Okan Pipeline Co.

*The best part is that elves don't have to know how to spell.*

Personalities

\* \* \*

To the Editor:

Hooo writes Screenings? It's damn good writing - and we here at Power (McGraw Hill yet) take off our hat to a guy or guys - or gals (we hope) who know how to write. Read Marmaduke Surfaceblow...

toodle-pip  
Steve Elonka  
Power Magazine

*More power to us.*

~ ~  
o o

To the Editor:

This (5/1) is obviously written by a bachelor engineer with a Freudian complex-- which can be overcome! Don't take the old saying that a "bachelor is a man who has been lucky in love" too seriously.

Anon.

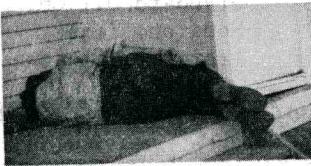
*Who has the complex?*

\* \* \*

To the Editor:

I just read 2/3 (Soil-cement) and fell off my chair.... I am happy to note that somebody has finally put some life into technical writing. Congratulations.

Mike Gray, Ed.  
Highway Magazine



\* \* \*

To the Editor:

You're killing me with laughter. Keep at it!

Henry Kallsen  
Louisiana Polytechnic Inst.

*There must be an easier way.*

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o o

To the Editor:

...How I wish we had such writers in the military...

G. W. Rogers  
Major, QMC

*Oh, no you don't!*

^ ^  
o o

To the Editor:

I've gotten a real bang from the only two copies of "Screenings" that I've seen. At the conclusion I'm as anxious for more as a 48-year old at Minsky's...

Aside from being truthful, I'm also buttering you to get on the mailing list...

Bob J. Buehler  
T.V.A.

*Truth will out.*

oo

To the Editor:

We have an urgent request from Miss Borghild Bjorlykke, Vollebakk, Norway...

Frances Warner  
ISU Exchange Librarian

*Perils of a mailing list.*

\* \* \*

To the Editor:

We should much appreciate receipt of a SAMPLE copy of this periodical, so that we can determine whether it would be useful to us.

Particia L. Golton  
Univ. of Cal. Library, Davis

*We've had some complaints on the paper.*

\* \* \*

To the Texans:

Ames, Iowa, is a little outside this department's territory, but we can't resist paying tribute to a hep-talking egghead up that-away!..

Thomas Turner in the  
Dallas Morning News

*If you must, make it cash.*

00 00 00

To the Editor:

...Your Screenings are the most refreshing items that pass over my desk.

Guy D. Smith  
U.S.D.A.

*Now that's a tricky way of pointing out the waste basket.*

\* \* \*

To the Editor:

...Please add Dr. Frantisek Skrivanek, Krasova sekee Sploecnosti Narodniho musea, Vaclaveske namesti 1700, Praha 2, Czechoslovakia...


J. F. Quinlan, Jr.  
Austin, Texas

*Were your hands correct on the typewriter?*

\* \* \*

To the Editor:

Today I referred Screenings to a geologist with the Navy. He came up with sidesplitting laughs, and said enthusiastically, "This man is a genius." He said further that you could compete successfully with Bob Hope.... For a long time we did not know the name of the author...

 Ian Campbell  
Cal. Div. of Mines

*Sounds like you all must pour over every word.*

\* \* \*

To the Editor:

I've enjoyed your articles very much; it isn't often one can get an honest belly laugh reading the present day literature.

Wayne A. Pryor  
Illinois Geol. Survey

*All one needs is an honest belly.*

\* \* \*

To the Editor:

Hooray for the Pleistocene!

Jane L. Forsyth  
Pleistocene Geologist  
Ohio Geol. Survey

*Take your pick*

## Technical Aspects

- -  
0 0

To the Editor:

"...clay particles....join together in feathery wisps or flocculi resembling bits of wool and reminding one of dust under the bed."  
(3/6) Reminds me of dust under the head.

Dr. H. van Olphen  
Shell Development Co.  
Houston, Texas

*Dr. van Olphen is well known for his definitive work with clay suspensions.*

\* \* \*

To the Editor:

I have recently had the pleasure of reading several issues of your excellent publication, and I was most favorably impressed by its contents. I would therefore greatly appreciate it if you would place my name on your mailing list.

Karl Terzaghi  
Winchester, Mass.

*Dr. Terzaghi is regarded as the "father" of modern soil mechanics.*

\* \* \*

To the Editor:

I have found pleasure in reading your popular article entitled, "An unhurried look at the Pleistocene." It is very well done and I compliment you.

M. M. Leighton,  
Chief emeritus  
Illinois Geol. Survey

*Dr. Leighton is a foremost authority and "elder statesman" of the Pleistocene.*

\* \* \*

To the Editor:

Considering that this topic (electroosmosis) does not lend itself well for such a write-up, you have certainly succeeded remarkably well. In fact, I would like to buy up to 100 copies...

L. Casagrande  
Harvard Univ.

*Dr. L. Casagrande pioneered this field.*

Dept. of Foreign Affairs

\* \* \*

To the Editor:

Vol. 2, No. 3 has just reached my desk. Needless to say, I read it with intense interest, and, frankly, a most critical eye.

The "Saga of Soil-Cement" is beautifully done. Congratulations on a most thorough, authoritative resume.

Miles D. Catton  
Portland Cement Association

*Mr. Catton is a pioneer worker with soil-cement.*

Dept. Of Defense

\* \* \*

To the Editor:

I have always enjoyed your paper but this last issue (3/1) has left me somewhat disturbed. I believe that your views on great soil groups of the Arctic and Subarctic are somewhat misleading. The great pedologic literature of northern Eurasia, Karavaeva, Noglin, Petrov, Filatov, Grigorijev, Sheludyakova, Sochava, among others). I am sure that if you were familiar with pedology and soil genesis you would not have made some of the statements that you did in this edition. Some people take their profession seriously. Please continue me on the mailing list.

J. C. F. Tedrow  
Rutgers Univ.

*Humor is dead serious. (Insert comma before last word.)*

\* \* \*

To the Editor:

We have read with pleasure and much satisfaction your recent coverage of Alaska in 3/1. Your treatment of the Alaska soil complex is excellent. Our thanks to you for such vivid reporting. Our Director Dr. Allan H. Mick has asked me to request 2000 copies for distribution throughout our new state...

Paul F. Martin  
Alaska Agric. Exp. Sta.,  
USDA

*We ignored the Russian literature.*

To the Editor:

Since geologists in Venezuela are often in need of a humorous outlook, I would like to receive additional copies of Screenings.

R. H. Auerbach  
Venezuelan Sun Oil Co.

*Ye olde mailing list grows unseemingly fast.*

\* \* \*

To the Editor:

I have found considerable pleasure in reading your very interesting periodical...

Lew Wing Hing  
Happy Garden, Malaya

*We thought readers would be reassured to know there's a real place with a name like that. In our own disillusionment we would probably use it to tag a booby hatch.*

\* \* \*

To the Editor:

I have also heard of the use of asphalt in the preparation of mummies, but the oldest book that I have that deals in any way with the subject (Jahn's Bible Archaeology, 1839).... merely relates the incision below the ribs on the left side, extraction of the intestines, washing and anointing the body, then the brain is removed with a crooked piece of wire through the nose....

P. Randolph  
Dallas, Texas

*Sounds like they had small brains on big noses.*

\* \* \*

To the Editor:

*(In reply to our inquiry--Where the hell is Dry Branch?)* Believe it or not, Dry Branch, Georgia, is located at the geographic and spiritual heart of the illicit liquor distilling industry of the United States.... It has not been dry at Dry Branch--spiritually--within the memory of man.

S. C. Lyons  
Georgia Kaolin Co.

*Where there's smoke there's firewater.*



## Dept. of the Interior

To the Editor:

I was both interested and properly amused by the catchy and informative way in which you have prepared that publication... However, it seems obvious to me that you have aimed your writings at a fairly select group of students and post-graduates rather than at the broad spectrum of practicing professional engineers.

T. M. Leps,  
Exec. Comm., A.S.C.E.  
Soil Mech. & Found. Div.

*Actually, we aim it at the boss—our boss.*

\* \* \*

To the Editor:

...For all my life I've had a deep curiosity to learn, a seeking, a craving for Knowledge. Some of this thirst I've quenched by doing, a lot of reading, but I still want to know how, where, why, what for, about many things...

P. R., Texas

*Please consult your encyclopedia.*

\* \* \*

To the Editor:

Only one thing--how do I keep these out of my wife's sight? She finds them almost as hilarious as I do, so she doesn't get meals on time and such as that--like monopolizing the Screenings so I don't get to read them.

W. M. Haas  
Michigan College of Mines

*You may have to eat the words like (as) we do.*

\* \* \*

To the Dean:

Strange to say, my whole family, including wife and children enjoy reading this...

Don Kaser  
Kaser Const. Co.

\* \* \*

To the Editor:

After some years reading your vastly over-rated journal "Screenings" I feel somebody should put you on to what people really think. Although the technical aspects sometimes look almost reasonable, frankly the jokes leave me cold. I daresay there has not been a single one I have not seen before.

RLH  
Ames, Iowa

\* \* \*

To the Editor:

Your two reprints were both of great interest to me, being subjects which I have studied from the viewpoint of collision geology.... During Jan., Feb. and March of this last year I traveled over the greater part of Australia and New Zealand and in July I was in Penn.... The material on Australia, New Zealand and Fiji will be published next year some time in a small book to be called Down Under and Off to One Side....

A. O. Kelly  
Carlsbad, Cal.

*That title is pure poetry.*

\* \* \*

To the Editor:

Will you please put me on your mailing list..

Wayne M. Biklen  
American Safety Razor Co.

*We must be sharp*

←  
00

To the Dean:

Of all the pamphlets which cross our desk your Screenings is the best for a long time. We wish we could develop a style as readable and attractive for our own book.

Elwood Meschter, Assoc. Ed.  
Rock Products

*There they go crossing a desk again.*

\* \* \*

Sir or Madam:

I don't know who R.L.H. is, but I know he's good, (if he's a he). Of course I thought it must be an engineer; but still he writes too well for that...

H. R. Green  
HOWARD R. GREEN CO.

*could be a cockroach.*

\* \* \*

To Ye Olde Editor:

I should like to be placed on your mailing list for your publication "Screenings."

Clyde N. Laughter  
Jefferson City, Mo.

Hal

Dept. of Commerce

To the Editor:

I can't help but wonder when you are planning to publish some of your selected works in book form. Your articles are at least as entertaining as those of Will Cuppy, considerably more informative, and certainly should have wide appeal to the engineering profession in general.

Bruce A. Lamberton  
Chief Eng.  
Intrusion-Prepakt, Inc.

\* \* \*

To the Experiment Station:

This is an interesting collection, but is just that. As we sampled it around our Manuscript Committee, we've found that people aren't going to provide a very good market for collections of columns and we can't see just how to frame this up...

Marshall Townsend  
Mgr., ISU Press

\* \* \*

To the Editor:

In cleaning out my desk (for the year) I found a note concerning "Screenings". Comment: Mighty fine job - first technical paper I've ever read with practically the chuckles for Thorne Smith's books...

Sherman A. Smith  
SHERMAN SMITH AND CO.

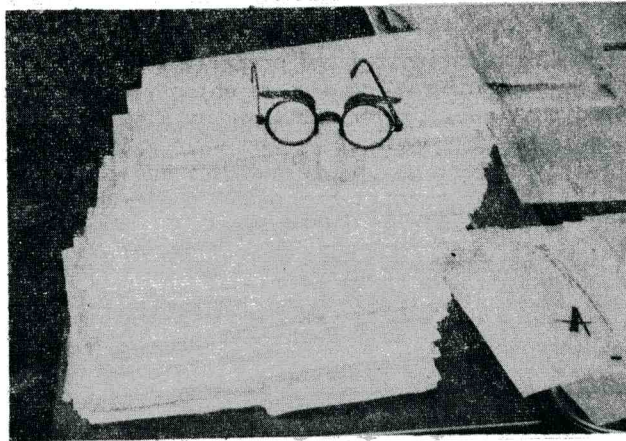
*Does he make those Cuban cough drops?*

\* \* \*

To the Editor:

The line around the box on p. 6 of the last issue of Screenings should have been a bit thicker so as to represent more adequately the gloom (obituary type-partial) with which I view its "degeneration" to a quarterly.... I am appalled that anyone in his right mind could seriously consider reducing its frequency. If this happens to include you as author, then it may be dismissed on the ground that you are unavoidably biased and your opinion is therefore worthless.

Arthur H. Robinson  
Univ. of Wisconsin

*The error must be in your basic premise.**Take a letter. Take several.*

\* \* \*

To the Editor:

Would it be possible to obtain three additional copies of priceless 2/1?

Chas. H. Merchant  
Jenkins, Merchant & Nankivil  
Springfield, Ill.

*It's out of print.*

\* \* \*

To the Editor:

I am very much embarrassed that after your prompt reply I have neglected to send the promised remittance...

C. S.  
Illinois

*It's not in our heart to scold. Just send the cash.*

①

*In Addition...*

We thank you all for this fine issue. Mail has come at the rate of three to four hundred per year, which from a mailing list of 1000, half of whom are relatives who never write, is not bad. Included have been inspirational items like Chinese money, street car tokens, trading stamps, cold cash, books, reprints, and a re-usable April Fool card from England. It has surely been interesting mail.

In the Next Issue: TEST ROADS.

RLH