



Armour Tech News



Vol. XIX. No. 13.

Armour Institute of Technology, Chicago, Illinois

Tuesday, May 18, 1937



Al N. Schrieber

Out of a cold grey evening mist a huge cigar-shaped balloon longer than a Chicago city block began to settle at Lakehurst airport twelve days ago. Within a few moments this marvel of engineering science was destined to become the central figure of one of the most spectacular accidents in the history of aviation. A loud report, a flash of flame, and the Hindenburg, Zeppelin grandiose and pride of the German air fleet, was a mass of flames that rapidly reduced the largest airship ever built into a twisted mass of blackened steel framework.

Lighter-than-air craft have been the black sheep of aviation. Yet the destruction of almost every huge dirigible has not checked the enthusiasm of certain engineers who believe that this type of airship can fill a definite need in commercial and military aviation. Within a few months German engineers will launch a bigger Zeppelin and will again try to prove the worthiness of the "big sausages."

Unfortunately the exact causes of dirigible accidents are difficult to ascertain, and thus the engineer is in a quandary as to what was incorrect in his creation. Three general causes can be charged for the Hindenburg disaster: sabotage, act of God, or engineering weakness. At the investigation the first two causes were given little support, in spite of recent "sniping" about the airport and the electrical storm just prior to the attempted landing. Most emphasis has been placed on a rear motor which is suspected of exploding and hurling a broken propeller blade into the gas bag, ultimately igniting the hydrogen.

This may or may not have happened. But the real answer is that that hydrogen gas used to provide the lifting force was the ultimate tool of death and disaster. When 7,000,000 cubic feet of this highly inflammable gas is concentrated in a semi-rigid container and surrounded by an ocean of oxygen eager to chemically embrace its mate in an explosive union—that's placing too much faith on lady luck.

Helium, for which hydrogen is a poor substitute, can only be found and produced in large quantities in the United States. Our Government restricts helium exportation, fearing it may be used by foreign powers for military advantage. In view of the rearming program of almost every nation and the tense international war atmosphere such an opinion is fully substantiated.

Greased Pole and Interfraternity Pageant Feature Circus Day Show

Shrieking gaily into the teeth of a howling nor'easter, the Armourites charged madly at the greased pole set up in Ogden field and, for the edification of millions of eager news-reel viewers and the more valid reason of Junior Prom bids on top, proceeded to wipe great gobs of grease from the base.

Despite the fact that the initial charge proved to be a false start due to a faulty focal adjustment of the cameras, all participants patiently scraped at the grease until the pole began to tilt at an ominous angle. Although no one seemed unduly alarmed at the prospect of cushioning the drop of several hundred pounds of greased pole, the marshals deemed it advisable to limit the climbing to smaller groups in turn.

Several self-sacrificing souls were found who offered sundry ears and noses to be stepped on and thereby succeeded in removing the grease for two-thirds of the distance. Then, out from the ranks stepped two supermen, men whom Ulysses would have embraced as brothers; these

P. D. Armour Is Honored at Agricultural Club Banquet

Philip D. Armour, founder of Armour and Company and Armour Institute of Technology, was honored yesterday afternoon at the 70th anniversary meeting of the Agricultural Club of Chicago. The banquet was held in the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel La Salle.

Charles F. Curtiss, senior dean of Iowa State College, and Ralph H. Cabell, president of Armour and Company, were the principal speakers. President Willard E. Hotchkiss sat at the speakers' table. Representatives from Armour Tech present were George S. Allison, Dean Heald, Dean Tibbals, and Professors Freeman, Penn, and Vagthorg.

Scholarship Hopefuls to Be Dined by Fraternity Men

Eight social fraternities will entertain candidates for the annual competitive scholarships after the examinations next Saturday morning. Approximately two hundred will compete for the ten scholarships that will provide tuition for one year.

After the morning session of examinations in mathematics, English, physics, and chemistry, the candidates will be guests of the fraternities for lunch, and will be entertained in the afternoon at the various fraternity houses. This is the third time the fraternities have acted as hosts at the scholarship examinations.

The scholarships provide tuition for the academic year 1937-38. The awards will be based on a rating determined by competitive examinations, and by consideration of the personality, scholastic record in high school, extra-curricular activities, and general fitness of the candidates.

Summer School Plans New Evening Division

An evening division will be introduced to the summer school session this year beginning on June 21. It will continue until August 13. Courses in mathematics, mechanical engineering, civil engineering, mechanics, English, and metallurgy will be offered. Shop courses in air conditioning, refrigeration, welding, and machine shop began last night. Elementary surveying and railway and highway surveying will be included in the civil engineering course.

The six weeks field practice required of civil engineering students between the sophomore and junior year will continue from June 11 to July 23. Courses in architecture will be given at the Art Institute from June 21 to July 30. At Armour courses will be given in mathematics, mechanics, and chemical, electrical, and mechanical engineering.

A.S.M.E. to Visit U. S. Steel Plants

Tomorrow the A.S.M.E. at Armour will make a complete inspection of the steel-making industry when they tour the subsidiary plants of the United States Steel Corporation at Gary, Indiana. All students in the junior and senior mechanical classes will be excused all day Wednesday to attend the inspection trip.

From Ore to Ingots

The students will start at the unloading docks in the morning and will observe each step in the manufacture of steel from the ore pile to the shipment of the completed product. At the Carnegie-Illinois Steel Company the following operations will be inspected: ore unloading, coke manufacture, the blast furnace, Bessemer and open hearth steel production, soaking pits, blooming mills, rolling mills, and manufacture of merchant ingots and structural shapes. In addition the new Brunerizing rail rolling method will be seen.

To Finished Product

In the afternoon the inspection trip will be conducted through the American Sheet and Tin Plate Company. Here the students will observe hot and cold rolling of steel plates and sheets, and the manufacture of strip steel.

In order to facilitate the trip, buses have been chartered to transport the students between the various plants and points of interest. This will help to reduce the usual inspection trip fatigue and will allow a much larger area to be visited. Lunch will be served at the restaurant of the Carnegie-Illinois Steel Company. A charge of fifty cents per person will be made to cover the expenses of the chartered bus, and the trip will begin at 8:30 a. m. in the lobby of the Hotel Gary at 6th and Broadway in Gary.

Pi Kappas Win Sing at Spring Concert

An outstanding performance was added to the record of the school orchestra and glee club as they combined with the fraternities for the spring concert and interfraternity sing held in Armour Mission last Wednesday evening. For the third time in a row the sing was won by Pi Kappa Phi, entitling them to permanent possession of the silver cup awarded. The winner's songs were "Drinking Song" and "Rose of Pi Kappa Phi."

All Fraternities Participate

A capacity crowd heard the orchestra, directed by O. Gordon Erickson, open the program with "Ballet Egyptian," by Luigini. The glee club, in the best of form, followed with "Land of Hope and Glory," "When Thro' the Night," and "Cossack Love Song."

The interfraternity sing was unusual in that all eight social fraternities were present. Pi Kappa Phi's victory was due largely to fine organization and well-balanced selections. Phi Pi Phi featured the tenor solo voice of R. N. Vandekieft. All of the fraternities sang well, and their work was well-received.

Seniors Give Farewell Performance

The glee club then sang "On the Road to Mandalay," with T. W. Yeakle as the baritone soloist, and "De Animals a' Comin'," an unusual negro spiritual. After the orchestra's rendition of "Trees" and "America Sketch," the senior members of the glee club made their farewell with a beautifully lighted performance of "On Wings of Song" and "Lights Out."

Other soloists of the evening were G. E. Danforth and H. L. Bliss, pianists, F. M. Hrachovsky, tenor, A. Rune, violinist, and B. F. Heine, accordionist. The concert was concluded with the singing of the time-honored "Alma Mater."

Concert and Pontiac Trip Complete Musical Season

The musical clubs will round out the year with a concert at the alumni banquet on May 25, and a trip to Pontiac on the following day. The alumni engagement will be at the Alminah Athletic Club.

Three buses have been chartered for the Pontiac trip. Plans to date are that the members of the clubs will assemble at the Art Institute at 8:00 a. m., Wednesday, May 26. The day will include two concerts at the reformatory in the morning, one at the high school in the afternoon, and a final engagement at a Pontiac theater in the evening.

Athletes Hear Halas and Flanagan Speak at A.T.S.A. Dinner

Last Thursday evening one hundred forty-four well-dressed participants in Armour athletics heard Pat Flanagan, the famed announcer, George Halas, coach of the Chicago Bears, and the school coaches at the annual A.T.S.A. banquet in the Union League Club. While Bert Heine and George Danforth modified the clatter of knives and forks by playing accordion and piano respectively, the "students" (as one speaker called the athletes) did justice to a good meal.

Stop Me If You've Heard—

Pat Flanagan, first of the speakers, presented an announcer's viewpoint of athletic events, baseball especially, and answered questions asked by Techawks concerning baseball broadcasts. Halas, the other guest speaker, related several amusing incidents connected with his football career and put his listeners in an uproar with a story about a hospital poker game.

Coaches Talk

The coaches were called on next to give a short account of the season's results in their sports. John Schommer, the toastmaster, introduced the following coaches: S. F. Bibb, golf; W. W. Colvert, tennis; W. C. Kraft, baseball; E. W. McGillivray, swimming; N. R. Root, track; G. N. Stenger, basketball; and G. Weissman, boxing and wrestling.

Professor P. C. Huntly, chairman of the athletic board, Assistant Dean C. A. Tibbals, who is also former tennis coach, Dean H. T. Heald, and Dr. W. E. Hotchkiss also gave short addresses.

Heald and Tibbals Attend Illinois Deans' Convention

Dean Heald and Assistant Dean Tibbals traveled to Urbana, Illinois, last Saturday to attend the annual meeting of the Illinois Association of Deans and Advisors of Men. The University of Illinois played hostess to the convention.

The program continued from 9 o'clock in the morning until 3 o'clock in the afternoon, including round-table discussions and informative speeches. A baseball game between Illinois and Michigan wound up the day's entertainment.

Use Knife on Slippery Salads, Boys, When Playing Cards Avoid all Noise

Pittsburgh, Pa.—(ACP)—How to avoid embarrassment in daily life is being told University of Pittsburgh men in "What Every Man Should Know," a guide on manners written by Dr. Vincent W. Lanfear, dean of men, and Robert C. Corley, his assistant.

Following are some of the rules for conduct that should help graduates as well as undergraduates:

1. No man should keep a pipe, cigar or cigarette in his mouth when he lifts his hat to a woman.
2. While it is customary in Europe for a woman to sit at a man's right in a taxicab, it is perfectly proper for a woman to sit on a man's left in the United States.
3. A man meeting a woman acquaintance on a train does not offer to pay for her ticket, nor her meal in the diner, nor the magazine she buys. Nor does he offer to pay the

Junior Prom Climaxes Eventful Week; Back to Work for Students

Board of Trustees Hears Dr. Hotchkiss at Banquet

Dr. Willard E. Hotchkiss presented a report on current operations at the regular spring meeting of the Board of Trustees last night. His report followed a dinner held at 6:30 o'clock in the Chicago Club, 404 South Michigan Boulevard.

After his report he described the steps being taken to make Armour a better place in which to live.

Tug of War Ends In Egg-throwing

Juniors and seniors had a day of their own last Thursday when junior-senior events were run off. First on the program was a free relay race consisting of wheelbarrow, match box, human wheelbarrow, running backwards, chariot, horseback, and elephant walk events. Apparently the preliminary practice of the seniors helped for they won in the final stretch.

Peterson, Hackman Win Events

Each department of the junior and senior classes had elected its representatives earlier in the week for the pie eating and strong man contests. The entrants in the pie eating contest were required to lie on the ground and to eat a medium sized blueberry pie as fast as they could. When the last blueberry was removed from the plate, each man had to blow a pile of flour from above a penny on another plate to complete the contest. Burdette Peterson, junior civil, showed himself as the pie eating champion. The contestants found that the blueberry and flour have a great attraction for each other.

Armour's super-strongmen betrayed their strength by gurgling bottles from bona fide four ounce baby bottles with nipples. Frank Hackman, senior chemical, evidently was a "bottle baby." He started out strong and kept a steady pace. Several contestants were "fouled out" because their nipples came off the bottles. Paul Martin tried the milk maid method but he couldn't defeat the determined Hackman.

Seniors Win Tug-of-War

An official rope with saddle and all was used in the tug-of-war event. Twenty men pulled on each side, the seniors continually charging the juniors with having twenty-two men, which they most likely had. Three out of five wins were required to take the event. The seniors had the juniors 2 to 1 when another group of seniors entered the field and splattered the participants with slightly decomposed eggs. The sides retired and the junior-senior events were adjourned.

Sophomores Win Rush and All Interclass Competitions

Climaxed by the beautiful Junior Spring Informal last Saturday evening, the thirty-second annual Junior Week provided six full days crammed with hectic excitement and activity. The sophomore class, contrary to tradition, swept all athletic events, taking the interclass relay and baseball, the pentathlon, and the rush.

Seniors Begin Avalanche

Preparation for Open House occupied all of Monday. The freshman-sophomore baseball game opened the athletic events Tuesday morning. The sophomores, aided by a well balanced team whipped the unorganized freshmen to the tune of 11-6. Phi Pi Phi fraternity then went on to win the interfraternity relay for the third consecutive year nosing out Triangle.

Seniors Tie Up Opposition

Tuesday afternoon provided the annual faculty-senior baseball feature. This annual farce, however, failed to materialize when five faculty members were carried on the field tied up helplessly. This greatly discouraged many other faculty members who wished to prove their superiority.

The Fraternity Open House affair provided an enjoyable evening after a day of baseball, track, and field events.

Cups to Phi Pi's and Pi Kappas

Fraternity rivalry against each other Wednesday morning for supremacy in track and field events. As was expected Phi Pi Phi ran away with the meet. They scored a total of 62 points, while all the rest totaled 77 points. After fraternity track was concluded, the junior-senior softball game was played. The juniors nosed out the seniors by a 4-3 count.

Wednesday night, the annual Spring Concert climaxed the mid-week to an effective climax. A large and enthusiastic crowd witnessed a skillfully directed orchestra and glee club under the baton of O. Gordon Erickson, play a wide range of delightful numbers. Pi Kappa Phi repeated its performance of the last two years by winning the interfraternity sing.

Sophs Defeat Frosh by 5-1 Score in Rush

By a surprisingly low score of 5-1 the sophomore class triumphed over a strong freshman class in the annual class rush last Friday. Although outnumbered two to one, the sophs made up for their lack of numbers by an organized attack and a determined guard over the bags brought in. The sophs had four rush leaders. L. Bain, A. Hoffman, F. Neubauer, and K. Westerman. The freshman leader was F. W. Abbott.

An unusual ability to destroy their opponents' bag was displayed by both classes. Two of the sophomore marksmen were disqualified by the marshals because their garnerers had left before the starting gun.

Probably because the day was chilly, the juniors did not man a fire hose as they had in former years. The seniors did live affairs up a bit when they pelted both freshmen and sophomores with decrepit eggs. They paid dearly for their fun after the rush when the underclassmen, apparently enraged by such fowl tactics, rushed them, ripping the clothes from their backs.

Probably the best reason for the soph victory was the organization of their attack which was planned to the minutest detail. The freshmen, although displaying surprising strength, were weak on defense and it is probably here that they lost the rush.