

## CONFERENCE DIRECTORS

Professor C. C. Wiley was the first Conference Director and served from 1914 to 1950. Carol Carson Wiley was born in Edinburg, Illinois. He graduated from the University of Illinois with a BSCE degree in 1904. After two years of employment with the Weir Frog Company and the American Bridge Company, Wiley joined the Department of Civil Engineering Staff in 1906 as an Instructor. He received a Civil Engineering degree in 1910 and remained on the Civil Engineering Staff as Professor of Highway Engineering until his retirement in 1952. "C.C.", as he was affectionately known, truly pioneered highway engineering in Illinois. Professor Wiley died in 1971.

Ellis Danner was the second Conference Director. He assumed the position in 1951 as Professor Wiley's retirement neared. Danner, a native of Astoria, Illinois, was a 1930 University of Illinois graduate in Railway Civil Engineering. Following employment with the Illinois Division of highways (District 4) from 1930-1940 and service in the U.S. Army in World War II, he joined the Department of Civil Engineering Staff in 1946 as an Assistant Professor. Professor Danner completed his MSCE in Highway Engineering in 1949. He served as Conference Director until his retirement in 1973. Ellis and his wife Irene currently reside in Sun City, Arizona.

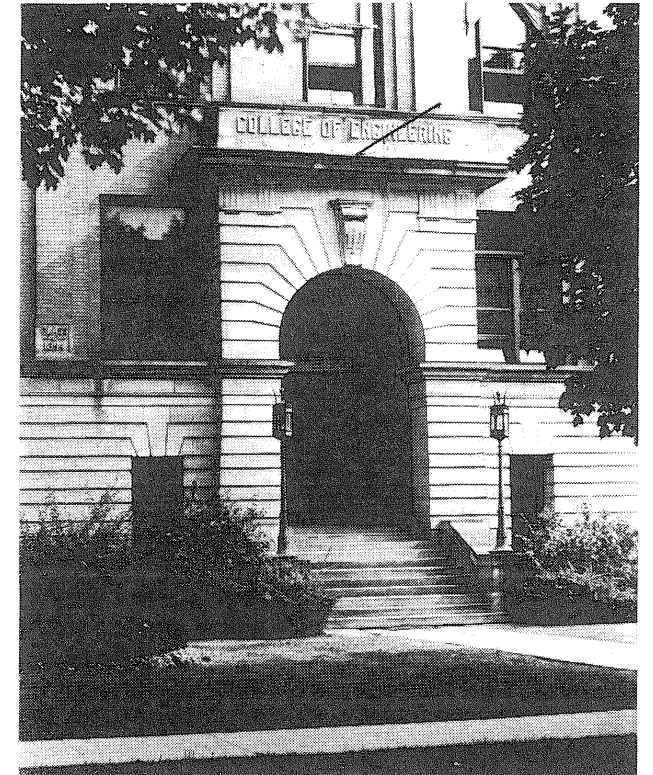
The third (and present) THE Conference Director is Marshall R. Thompson, Professor of Civil Engineering. Thompson, a native of Browning Township in Schuyler County, received BSCE (1960), MSCE (1962), and Ph.D. (1964) degrees from the University of Illinois. His Graduate Advisor was Ellis Danner. Professor Thompson was Assistant Conference Director from 1965-1973. He became the Conference Director in 1974.

## THE FUTURE

The Transportation and Highway Engineering Conference continues to serve Illinois transportation needs. Attendance averages around 900 to 1000. Today, just as was stated in 1935,

"Our greatest desire is that it (THE Conference) shall continue to be of ever increasing service to the people of the State."

# 75th Annual Transportation and Highway Engineering Conference (THE) 1914 - 1989



**March 7 & 8, 1989**

**University of Illinois  
at Urbana-Champaign**

## HISTORY

The Transportation and Highway Engineering (THE) Conference has an interesting history. The first conference, held in 1914, was a "two-weeks training school for the newly created County Superintendents of Highways." The "training school" was the first of its kind in the nation. Early history and development of the "Short Course" were summarized in the foreword to the 1935 Program. 1935 was the first year the Conference was called the "Annual Conference on Highway Engineering."

### A NEW NAME

The Tice Law of 1913 created the office of County Superintendent of Highways and enlarged the activities of the State Highway Department. Consequently, in January 1914, the Department of Civil Engineering of the University of Illinois, with the cooperation of the Illinois State Highway Commission, held a two-week training school for the new men. The first "short course" consisted of lectures, laboratory demonstrations, and classroom discussions.

As the engineers and officials became better acquainted with their work, and the general public better informed on their function, the need for detailed instruction decreased and greater attention could be devoted to the major problems. Consequently this annual meeting has gone through a process of evolution in which its character has changed and the time devoted to it has been reduced. It now greets you under a new name more in keeping with its present purpose.

Every year the object has been to give the road builders of Illinois an opportunity to discuss the problems of immediate and vital interest and to gain the latest information on technical matters. Our greatest desire is that it shall continue to be of ever increasing service to the people of the State.

The 1942 program included a foreword entitled "WAR."

### WAR

The Nation is at war and transportation is essential to Victory. Highway engineers and officials must conserve critical materials and help maintain our highways at high efficiency.

We will do our part.

World War II related considerations prompted the cancellation of the 1945 (32nd) and 1946 (33rd) Conferences.

The 1947 program included a foreword entitled "PEACE."

### PEACE

Victory came in 1945. Although peace treaties are still to be signed, hostilities have ceased and once again we can concentrate on the problems of Peace – problems all the more complex because of the war.

Two years ago war demands on transportation caused the cancellation of the thirty-second session of this conference. Last year the thirty-third session was impossible because of conditions growing out of the war. Even today we are still beset by minor disturbances. Nevertheless after an interval of three years, we meet again in this the 34th Annual Conference on Highway Engineering.

Traffic is increasing at a terrific rate with constantly growing demands for better facilities, higher speeds, more economy, and greater safety. Therefore, in our plans for modern highways far more consideration must be given to traffic service through better design, construction, maintenance, and operation than ever before.

The knowledge and experience gained in former times of peace were of inestimable value in solving the problems of war. The new experiences and developments incident to the war will in turn add greatly to our ability to solve the problems of peace. The roads of the future must be vastly superior to those of the past and will be if we make use of what we have learned in both peace and war.

The Highway Engineering Conference format continued until 1972 when the present Transportation and Highway Engineering (THE) Conference format and title were adopted to accommodate the broadened Department of Transportation philosophy.

## CONFERENCE SPONSORS

The 1914 "Short Course" was presented by the Department of Civil Engineering in cooperation with the Illinois State Highway Commission. In 1935 the Illinois Association of County Superintendents of Highways became sponsors.

Conference Sponsors and the year they first participated are listed below:

Department of Civil Engineering	1914
Illinois Division of Highways	1914
Illinois Association of County Superintendents of Highways	1935
Public Works Section – Illinois Municipal League	1953
Township Officials of Illinois	1955
Associated General Contractors of Illinois	1958
Illinois Association of Highway Engineers	1967
Illinois State Toll Highway Authority	1971–85
Illinois Division of Federal Highway Administration	1973

### NOTE :

Since 1949, the University of Illinois Division of Extension has assisted the Department of Civil Engineering in presenting the Conference.