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Louisiana Tech Engineer (May 1933): The Tech Engineer - So What?

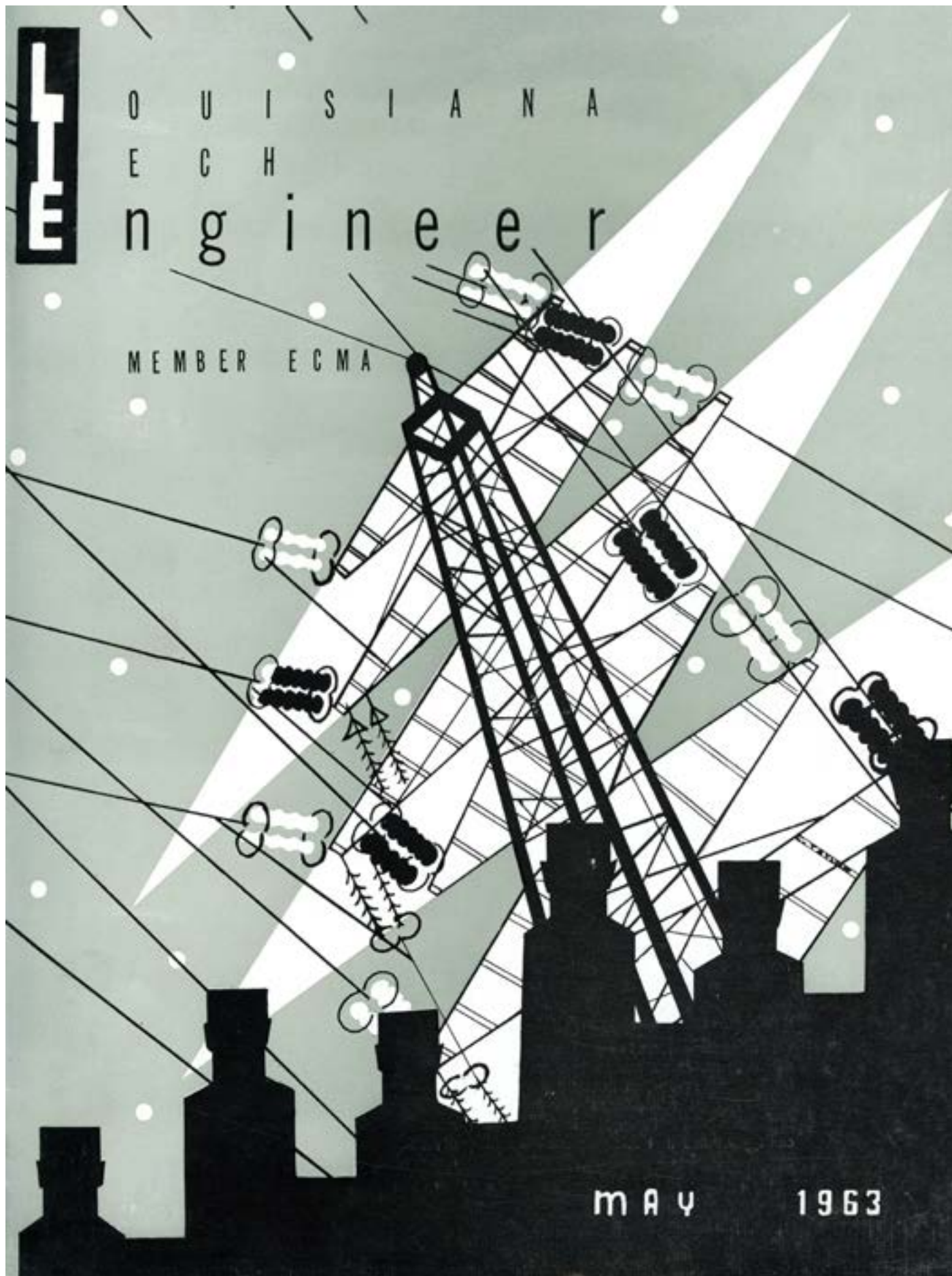
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LOUISIANA
Engineering

MEMBER ECMA

MAY 1963

THE TECH ENGINEER— SO WHAT?



Editors are all perhaps guilty of the use of trite phrases, age-worn expressions and meaningless statements concerning the future, particularly at this time of the year. With graduations abounding in high schools and colleges each spring, we seem to strive to impress upon others the trials, hardships and tribulations we have traversed in completing college. Perhaps the most obvious and yet most overlooked factor—which, if observed, would save reams of paper and weeks of editorial headaches—is that most people don't care what you have accomplished, and the few that do will never know exactly what was derived from the experience. In essence, editorial words are read, unheeded, undigested, and soon forgotten by many.

But someone always notices.

The one truth that refutes this reasoning, and that makes any effort—college, a magazine editorship, or even a smile—worthwhile is that, the masses notwithstanding, one or two or a few are cognizant of the effort.

And that makes it worthwhile.

As a member of the staff of this magazine for five years, I can truthfully admit to little more than the necessary effort throughout most of this period. Many things have been done that could have been done so much better, if I had known then. . . But is this not the way of most efforts? The word for it is a magic one—experience.

Five years is a long time, and; though perhaps somewhat shoddily done, I would welcome the chance to once again experience these responsibilities. The many embarrassing and awkward positions, the stumbling situations I have experienced in these issues and their preparation are now humorous, though appalling then. But the one important thing is that they were **learning** experiences, valuable as lessons not to be forgotten. They provided for me, and for all those that have actually worked on this

staff, numerous lessons that, in toto, became an education in themselves. I am thankful that I was one of the few this education was made available to, and feel an advantage that those not connected with a publication such as the **Engineer** surely could not possess.

Perhaps you have closely read the past few issues of the magazine. We have strived to achieve quality, a factor somewhat lacking in previous years. The inclusion of non-technical articles of general interest as well as more pictorial representation has been an effort to achieve readability, an evanescent factor that results from quality material. The quality of the jokes is as debatable a factor as the weather forecast. This is one point in which the magazine is rather severely censored, and considering the overall object of a college engineering magazine, perhaps justly so. The use of purely technical and often "dry" report-like material has been kept to a minimum, again with the reader in mind.

Thus we bring our personal experiences with the **Tech Engineer** to a close, stepping aside to give another the opportunity to serve you, the opportunity to do a big job better, and, perhaps most important, to learn. For that is what this publication is—a soundingboard for learning. I sincerely urge you, as engineers at Louisiana Tech, to take advantage of this opportunity to learn. All those who have an interest in this type of work, and it is varied, will find this publication to offer hard work, heartbreak—and satisfaction.

Many will say, "The **Tech Engineer**, so what?" A few have said and will continue to say, "The **Tech Engineer**—an effort, but I learned something. **Now** what?"

And that makes it worthwhile.

Ronnie Edwards