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M. D. HOOVEN BIOGRAPHY

Born in 1897 at Weatherly in eastern Pennsylvania, MDH early moved to the Pittsburgh area graduating from Turtle Creek High School in 1914. He spent several years in the laboratories of Carnegie Steel Company, attending Carnegie Tech and Pitt at night. He also spent short periods at the University of Vermont and Sheffield Scientific School while a private in the Signal Corps. He later received a B. S. degree magna cum laude at Bucknell in 1920. Upon graduation he went to Westinghouse as a member of the newly formed radio engineering staff where he was assigned as a cub engineer to Charles LeGeyt Fortescue^{we}. After KDKA had established itself he tried radio sales out of the Westinghouse agent-jobber establishment at Pittsburgh, but soon returned to engineering. In 1922 Dr. Fortescue sent him to the Public Service Electric Company in Newark where Mr. Rollin Conwell was forming a new transmission engineering office. There he has accumulated 48 years of varying assignments, now being retained by the Public Service Electric and Gas Company and associated electric utilities in New Jersey as consulting engineer on problems concerned with the development of natural resources.

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The job for which he was originally hired by Public Service was the establishment of a group to explore electric system planning, then a pioneering field. He served on the inter-utilities committee which established the Pennsylvania-New Jersey 220 kv Interconnection (now PJM) and other intercompany committees developing load studies, operating communications, river basin studies and plant design. Because of his earlier experience in radio he took responsibility within his company for such exploratory work as was then being done in that field. His first Institute papers were presented in 1929, -- Radio Interference before IRE's fourth Annual Convention at Washington, D. C. and Procedures for Load

Forecasting before AIEE in New York.

However, his professional society activities during the twenties were largely confined to the Engineering National Section of the National Electric Light Association (now Edison Electric Institute) where he became chairman of the Radio Interference Committee in 1926, chairman of the Inductive Coordination Committee in 1929, and Secretary of the Power System Engineering Committee in 1930. For more than ten years he was a part of the administration of the Joint Development and Research Program of the Bell System and NELA which settled with some finality the controversies which earlier were disturbing relations between the communication and electric supply utilities. He served in developing the Principles and Practices adopted by the industries being the electric supply system representative on the negotiating committee with the telegraph companies and the railroads. - He was one of the joint chairmen of the NEMA - RMA - NELA industry committee on Radio Coordination.

With the demise of NELA and the onset of the depression, the MDH career was altered perceptibly. Within his company he became Assistant Transmission and Substation Engineer spending more time on hardware than previously. He was one of the founders of the Power Group of the New York Section of AIEE and, several years later, of the New Jersey Division of that Section, also being a participant in the formation of the Northern New Jersey Section of IRE. (He still serves in the successor bodies).

In the years just before World War II he was a member of the Federal government's Radio Advisory Committee, ^{Policy}Power/Committee, and National Defense Power Committee. Returning to Newark as (head of the electrical division of the engineering department), he served the Selective Service System on its New Jersey Board of Scientists and Engineers. As the electrical engineer he shared with others of his company the responsibility of making too little capacity meet the requirement of too much load and,

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immediately after the war, sponsored the electrical design and construction of the larger generating units and stations then being rushed into service.

He was a member of the joint ASME - AIEE Committee on Steam Turbine Generators. In the National AIEE organization his work progressed through the Technical Program Committee, the Publication Committee and the Planning and Coordination Committee until, during the Wickenden presidency, he became a member of the three-man exploratory team which in 1948 sponsored the Board of Directors' adoption of the Asheville Resolution, a reorientation of Institute activities which still carries with it administrative concepts of high import to the Institute. W.R.G. Baker, heading the AIEE communication division of this group and concurrently engaged in IRE exploratory work, simultaneously carried over the technical groupings of AIEE into the development of the professional groups in IRE, thus adding one more item which made the eventual merger possible/ to accomplish. The Asheville Resolution also included one of the first formal proposals for the merger of the Institutes.

Also in AIEE he became New York Section Chairman, Vice President, Director and, in 1955, President. He was an early proponent of Unity of the Profession. At a specially called meeting of the AIEE Board of Directors in San Francisco he obtained a cautious approval of a unity and merger outline. As a member of/ both councils he promoted unity of the Profession in the executive committee meetings of ECPD and EJC. Discussions of the proposed electrical merger were held with the contemporary IRE presidents. The times were not yet ripe however and the merger awaited the passing of several years.

MDH became president of the Engineers Council for Professional Development in 1957 serving for two terms and, in all, a total of 13 consecutive years on the Council. In this field he has held firmly to the conviction that the future of World as well Western culture will best be guided by intensive training in the technological field of the best minds

available, with insistence on a sound background in liberal arts. He
s served many work forces in this area including ^{the} Committee on Development
of Engineering Faculties in ASEE, the Professional Identity Committee in
NSPE and the Joint ECPD - EJC Committee on the Survey of the Profession,
being the chairman of the latter group for many years. He is currently
Chairman of the History Committee of IEEE succeeding the late Harraden Pratt.
In 1959 he retired from his electrical engineering post at Public Service
becoming consulting engineer for the company with his time and activities
devoted mostly to water resources, a field in which he also has been
a long-time participant in community activity. He is currently a member
of the executive committee of the Board of Directors of the Water Resources
Association of the Delaware River Basin, a commissioner of the Newark
Municipal Utilities Authority, an advisor to the Water Department of the
Town of Montclair, a member of the American Water Works Association, and a
member of the NAM Committee on Natural Resources.

Among awards he has received are: honorary doctor of science degrees
from Newark College of Engineering (1957) and Bucknell University (1958),
University of Prague Anniversary Medal (1957), University of Louisville
Distinguished Lecture Medallion (1958), Honorary Membership in Montclair
Society of Engineers (1964) and Bucknell University Award of Merit (1969).
He is the author of many papers in his several fields.