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"Engineering Then and Now"

by Andrew H. Wilson

(previously produced as Cedargrove Series #31/2014 – October 2014)

Abstract

This paper was the basis of the talk given by the author to the Ottawa SAGE Kiwanis Group at Woodroffe United Church on 8 October 2014. Some of the themes included in the talk have since been expanded, although fewer illustrations have been used.

The thrust of the paper is to contrast engineering 60-to-100 years ago (then) with contemporary engineering (now). The representative themes include cooking and other household chores, sod huts and skyscrapers, boats and ships, bridges, canals and lift locks, automobiles, aeroplanes and spacecraft, and scientific research.

And, finally, a word or two about the future.

About the Series

Principally, the Cedargrove Series is intended to preserve some of the research, writings and oral presentations that the author has completed over the past half-century or so, but has not yet published. It is, therefore, the modern-day variant of the privately published books and pamphlets written by his forebears, such as his paternal grandfather and grandmother and his grandfather's brother John.

About the Author

He is a graduate in mechanical engineering and the liberal arts and has held technical, administrative, research and management positions in industry in the United Kingdom and the public service of Canada, from which he retired almost 30 years ago. He has 'done' engineering history since 1975.