

Big retirement dinner for Dean Huber O. Croft

"A sense of honor, humility, fairness, imagination and humor" were all credited to Dean Emeritus Huber O. Croft, of the University College of Engineering, when 260 friends and professional colleagues met March 16 in Columbia to honor the retired dean at a dinner.

Many of those attending were former students of Dean Croft's from the State University of Iowa, where he was head of the department of mechanical engineering before coming to the University of Missouri in 1949.

Dean Croft retired as Dean of the College and Director of the Engineering Experiment Station last September upon reaching 65. He remains on the faculty as professor of mechanical engineering. Dr. Joseph C. Hogan succeeded him to the deanship.

Helping highlight the evening was the presentation of a portrait of Dean Croft to Dr. Elmer Ellis, president of the University. The portrait, presented by Dean Joseph C. Hogan, was painted by Ned Etheridge, Columbia artist who has also done portraits of several other prominent members of the University faculty. Mr. Etheridge is also an associate agricultural editor and assistant professor of extension education at the University. The portrait was a gift from a group of faculty, alumni and friends of Dean Croft.

In addition, a plaque honoring Dean Croft was presented to the University by W. E. Hedges, president of the donating Missouri Society of Professional Engineers.

Both humorous and serious tributes were paid Dean Croft in four speeches at the testimonial dinner.

Jack Matthews, dean of students at the University, credited Dean Croft for a sense of honor, humility, fairness, imagination and humor in his dealings with students and others.

Jens Norgaard, a former student of Croft's at the State University of Iowa, said that the dean gave his students a broad foundation in their field.

Clifford Wallis, chairman of the Department of Electrical Engineering, read a witty poem describing the problems with which Dean Croft no longer had to deal as dean. Wallis also extended serious congratulations for "a job well done."

President Ellis said, "Dean Croft has been an innovator at the University and has started many projects. Both he and Mrs. Croft have been a tremendous cultural influence on the University and Columbia."

The Crofts were presented gifts by the faculty of the college and Mrs. Croft received a gift in behalf of the Engineering Faculty Wives.

A native of Denver, Colo., Dean Croft received a B.S. Degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Colorado and a Master of Science Degree from the University of Illinois. He had served on the faculties of the University of Illinois, Stanford University and the State University of Iowa before coming to Missouri. He had also served in engineering capacities with three Denver firms, and as a consult-

ing and designing engineer in other parts of the country, including a number of government projects.

He is author and co-author of many published works in the professional field, including the book: "Thermodynamics, Fluid Flow, and Heat Transmission," published in 1936. He has also presented many scientific papers before national professional societies.

His membership in numerous professional and honorary societies includes the American Society for Engineering Education, of which he served as national president; the Iowa Engineering Society of which he also served as president; the American Rocket Society; the Association for Advancement of Science; the National Society of Professional Engineers; the New York Academy of Science; the Royal Society of Arts (London, England), and the Missouri Society of Professional Engineers, of which he was president.

Dean Croft, when a student at Colorado, was elected to Tau Beta Pi, honorary scholastic society in engineering. He was also elected to Sigma Xi, national honorary science society.

He served in the U. S. Air Corps in World War I, and was a regional representative for the War Manpower Board during World War II. He also served as consultant to the Ordnance Department of the U. S. Army during World War II, and in 1945 was appointed consultant to the Bush-Bowman Committee on Post-War Research.

In 1948 he received the joint Army-Navy Citation for Civilian War Services and in 1950 he received the Officier D'Academie palm medal from the French government. In 1949 he served as consultant to the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission.



Dean Emeritus Croft with his portrait. At left, his successor as dean, Dr. Joseph C. Hogan.