

IMPACT

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Featured article:
JOHN E. HERSHEY

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1997 CEAT Hall of Fame Inductees

Share Stories of School, Success

A degree in mechanical engineering from OSU was not what **H.E. "Ed" Cobb Jr.** had planned after World War II. Instead, he had aspirations of studying petroleum engineering in Norman, but a lack of housing there sent him to Stillwater. Soon, all talk of the other school faded, and Cobb stayed at OSU until he graduated in 1949.



Cobb

After working for Deep Rock Oil Corp. and serving aboard the U.S.S. Trathen in the Korean conflict, Cobb – with the support of his late wife, Louise, and three children – made the most important decision of his life by venturing out on his own to become a consulting petroleum engineer.

Eventually, the Toklan Oil and Gas Corp. emerged from Cobb's hard work.

Today, son Patrick is CEO of the company, and son Victor is a petroleum engineer. Cobb enjoys devoting more time to his church, community and family – which includes seven grandchildren. He recently chaired the \$5 million capital funds campaign for the new Oklahoma Methodist Manor health center, and he remains closely involved with OSU.

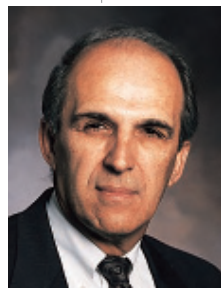
Recalling the milestones of his life, Cobb realizes that heeding the advice of his father to "take advantage of every opportunity to get as much education as possible" influenced his life in ways he never could have imagined.

In 1991, **Donald L. Wickens** became the third chairman and CEO of the Benham Companies – a 90-year-old engineering and construction business which has experienced threefold revenue growth with him at its helm.

Between 1979 and 1989, he sacrificed much of his personal life to travel weekly to Houston and St. Louis to establish new offices for the company. His travels now take him to Moscow, Tokyo and Mexico City where he has been instrumental in establishing international offices.

His attraction to the study of architectural engineering stemmed from his love of arts and sciences, so he chose a career field that blended the two. Later, he returned to OSU for a master's degree in civil engineering, which he earned in 1962.

From his involvement with designs for food and beverage



Wickens

processing systems, he knows about making items such as pretzels, potato chips, dairy products, crackers, and beer. These experiences also taught him about making cans and lids, distributing food, warehousing, and even getting bananas

from trees to the marketplace.

When not working, Wickens loves to fly fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters. Sometimes, he makes lunch hour exciting for Benham employees by taking them for a helicopter ride.

Wickens and his wife, Sylvia, have two daughters and four grandchildren. ▲

Hershey Awarded Lohmann Medal

John E. Hershey, senior member of the technical staff at the General Electric Corporate Research and Development Center in Schenectady, N.Y., was recently named the eighth recipient of the Melvin R. Lohmann Medal.



Hershey

The medal is awarded each year to an alum of the CEAT who has made outstanding contributions to his or her profession and/or contributions to the education of engineers, architects or technologists.

Hershey earned his Ph.D. in electrical engineering from OSU in 1981 under the tutelage of professor Rao Yarlagadda. He also holds degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the University of Arizona and George Washington University.

For GE, and previously the Institute for Telecommunications Sciences and the Central Intelligence Agency, Hershey's creative activities have been the development and analysis of data handling methods. He is the inventor or co-inventor on 32 U.S. patents and has filed for 18 others.

His most challenging and intriguing projects have included devising a synchronization methodology for a foreign satellite system and devising an unusual covert communications system.

He is the author or co-author of 44 journal articles, 23 conference papers and four books and has served as an adjunct professor.

The father of three and grandfather of two, and his wife, Anna, live near Albany, N.Y. ▲

VONDA EVANS

ADAM HUFFER