

# ANACONDA WIRE AND CABLE COMPANY

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OFFICE OF  
VICE PRESIDENT-ENGINEERING

HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, 6  
NEW YORK

5.27.312

QUALITY OF TRANSACTIONS PAPERS (TPs)  
TOD, Minutes, 33rd Mtg, 6/21/62, Item 31

July 16, 1962

Dr. I. S. Coggeshall, Manager  
Technical Operations Services, AIEE

Dear Coggie:

Re subject Item 31, in 2nd line "1961" should be "1960".

From the Membership Directory, 1961-62, I find:

B. James Wilson (AM'52-M'60)  
Head, Energy Conversion Branch  
US Naval Lab, Washington, D.C.

I do not know this gentleman personally; therefore, have a few questions:

- 1.. Did he, personally, review the 399 papers in the 3 Parts of Vol. 79, 1960, from which he selected 65 of "questionable quality"?
- 2.. If he did not (as I suspect is the case), then who did? If the reviews were all made by Naval Lab personnel, I would question their competency to judge value of papers to all areas of specialty within electrical engineering.

"Quality" has many definitions in the minds of our members. I have taken the view that the principal criterion of a TP is: "Is it useful to the practicing technical specialist for whom it is written?"

For example, consider the 2 papers in Part III, accepted by the Insulated Conductor Committee, which Wilson lists as of "questionable quality":

The Texas Island Submarine Cable Crossing  
Paper 59-892, by Philip J. Croft  
Trans., Vol. 79, Pt. III, 1960, pp 628-635

Submarine cable crossings are very difficult and demanding in design, manufacture and installation technique. While all have some common characteristics, each introduces new and/or individual problems.



No competent cable engineer, confronted with a difficult submarine installation, would think of plunging ahead with a cable crossing without first reviewing the technical literature to see what had been done in previous instances. For example, a few years ago when he had such an installation to make, Charlie Hatcher looked up "75-kv Submarine Cable for Deepwater Station" by R. W. Wilbraham, AIEE Quarterly Transactions, Vol. 50, March 1931, pp 197-203. (I remember this because at the time Charlie told me that our "Classified Bibliography on Insulated Conductors" had more than repaid its cost in enabling him to find this paper quickly.)

In my opinion, the Croft paper is a worthwhile addition to the series of papers on installation technique which have been published, and will be a valuable reference for power cable engineers affiliated with both manufacturers and utilities.

Development of Continuous Extrusion Machine  
for Sheathing Cable with Lead Alloys

Paper 60-1219, by S. F. Radtke, C. J. Snyder, C. C. Childress  
Trans., Vol. 79, Pt. III, 1960, pp 1150-1156

Continuous extrusion presses have been limited to application of sheaths of commercially pure lead, having been unable heretofore to extrude alloys which have been found superior for power cable sheathing. This paper presents the results of costly development work underwritten by Lead Industries Association and John Robertson Co.

The paper should be of interest and value to both power and communication cable engineers. Perhaps it will not be of as much "permanent" value as the Croft paper because undoubtedly further improvements will be made in extrusion presses as time goes on.

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If these 2 papers are representative of Wilson's 65 of "questionable quality", then we don't have much to worry about.

Sincerely,



L. F. Hickernell

cc: Mr. N. S. Hibshman    Mr. F. L. Lawton  
     Mr. C. S. Rich        Mr. E. J. Merrell  
                             Mr. W. R. Brownlee

PS:- Since Ed Merrell has been in Europe, I took the liberty of defending the value of these 2 papers so that you would have at least one view before the meeting of TOD AdCom, 7/20/ 62

