

STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS FOUNDATION

presents

REFLECTIONS on CIVIL ENGINEERING

by

RALPH B. PECK

and

CHESTER P. SIESS

A Discussion Moderated by Mete A. Sozen

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*In front of Chicago Subway Soils Lab on E. Huron Street, 1940 (from left): Ben Eisenstein, **Chester Siess**, Everett Johnson, James Richardson, **Ralph Peck**, Thomas Speer, Michael Salgo, Willard Wells.*

Union League Club
65 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois
Tuesday, September 19, 2000
Reception: 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Program: 6:30 p.m.

The reception and program are free of charge and open to the public

Reflections on Civil Engineering

Ralph B. Peck and Chester P. Siess

Dr. Ralph B. Peck and Dr. Chester P. Siess have contributed substantially to the advancement of geotechnical and structural engineering, as educators and researchers at the University of Illinois, and while serving as consultants on many major engineering projects, including the original design of the Chicago subway system. Tonight they will share reminiscences from their careers, and their insights into the future of civil engineering.

Dr. Peck began his professional career in 1937, as a Structural Detailer for American Bridge Co. in Ambridge, Pennsylvania. Over the next fifty-plus years, he developed a focus on geotechnical engineering, and earned international recognition from his peers and numerous professional societies. He was awarded the National Medal of Science in 1974.

Dr. Peck earned degrees from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and attended the Harvard University Graduate School of Engineering, where he worked as an assistant in the laboratory of Arthur Casagrande. Upon completion of his formal education, he was employed by the City of Chicago as an Assistant Subway Engineer. He joined the faculty of the University of Illinois (U of I) in Urbana in 1942, where he remained until becoming Professor of Foundation Engineering, Emeritus in 1974.

During his tenure at U of I, he served as a consultant for foundation and stability conditions, and performed studies and investigations for railroads, highways, tunnels and dams worldwide. He has authored over 200 technical papers about foundations, earth pressures, tunnels, slopes and earth dams. He is also the author or co-author of four books on soil mechanics and geotechnical engineering.

Dr. Siess began his career as Party Chief and Soils Engineer for the Louisiana Highway Commission in 1937. He worked with Dr. Peck in the soils laboratory for the City of Chicago subway system from 1939 to 1941, before joining the faculty of the University of Illinois in Urbana. There, he advanced from Special Research Associate in Theoretical and Applied Mechanics to become Professor and Head of the Civil Engineering Department, before retiring as Professor Emeritus in 1978. Dr. Peck earned degrees from Louisiana State University and U of I.

Dr. Siess' primary interest has been the analysis and design of reinforced and prestressed concrete. He has been a member of the American Concrete Institute (ACI) for almost 65 years, and served on nine ACI committees. He was chairman of five committees, as well as Vice-President and President of ACI. Dr. Siess was a member for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Advisory Committee on Reactor Standards for twenty-four years, serving a term as Vice-Chairman and Chairman. He has received recognition from several professional organizations, including induction into the National Academy of Engineering in 1967.

Mete A. Sozen, Moderator of this evening's program, is the Kettelhut Distinguished Professor of Civil Engineering at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana.

STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS FOUNDATION

"The Advancement of Structural Engineering . . ."

The Structural Engineers Foundation is an independent, non-profit organization established to advance structural engineering through education and research. The activities of the Foundation include:

- ◆ Tuition scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in civil engineering programs (structural engineering specialization) at recognized universities
- ◆ Expense funds and honoraria for eminent experts to lecture on topics of interest to the profession of structural engineering.
- ◆ Competitive awards to recognize outstanding scientific achievements in the field of structural engineering.
- ◆ Sponsorship of scientific research intended to aid in the advancement of structural engineering.
- ◆ Publication of reports, papers and books of special importance and significance to structural engineers.

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203 North Wabash Avenue • Suite 2010 • Chicago, Illinois 60601
Telephone (312) 372-4198