WATERLOO TECHNICAL SOCIETY

8 SEP 1999 MEETING MINUTES

The 8 September 1999 meeting of the Waterloo Technical Society was held at Greenstreets Restaurant in Cedar Falls, IA with 31 members and 1 guest present. The meeting was called to order by President Chuck Angel at 7:35 PM. Chuck introduced the 1999-2000 officers to the membership. Following introductions of guests, the past Presidents and Honorary Members were recognized. Minutes of the 12 May 1999 meeting were read and approved.

Dick Michael presented the Treasurer's report showing a balance of $803.48. There were 90 paid members for the 1998-1999 year compared to 80 at this time last year. We have 21 honorary members.

Nico DeJong, chairperson of the Membership Committee, shared a chart of the WTS membership numbers over the past 10 years. He said the Society was started in 1914 with 20 members and reached a high membership number of about 500. Nico challenged each current member to find one new member during the current year.

Nico DeJong, program chairperson for September, introduced Dick Platt from Platt's Inc. as the evening speaker. Nico commented that the nursery business dates back 6 generations in the Platt family.

Dick Platt commented on the development process of the new John Deere LT100 lawn and garden tractors by John Deere Horicon Works. He said the development process started with a list of design goals that were gleaned from the designer's imagination, customer focus meetings, manufacturing development, field test, and service history. Dick commented that the previous 400 Series tractors had been a 6 year development program and the LT100 Series had been a 3 year program. He said that Horicon had tested the tractors locally in Wisconsin as well as in Florida. Tractors were operated 24 hours per day for 1 year in Florida and by the Horicon City Park Commission. Dick showed videotape on development of the LT100 Tractors. The video pointed out the many new features of this new line of tractors including one piece steel frames, improved steering, new drivetrain, spring assist lifting mechanism, and an all-weather mulching mower that can mow grass in the rain.

President Chuck Angel adjourned the meeting at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Darrell Wright, Co-Secretary