WATERLOO TECHNICAL SOCIETY

9 Feb 2000 MEETING MINUTES

The 9 Feb 2000 meeting of the Waterloo Technical Society was held at Greenstreets Restaurant in Cedar Falls, IA with 32 members and 12 guests present. The meeting was called to order by President Chuck Angel at 7:20 PM. Following introductions of guest, the past Presidents were recognized. Minutes of the 12 Jan 2000 meeting were read and approved.

Donna Casey presented the Treasurer's report showing a balance of $744.89. No membership renewals were received in January.

Nico De Jong reported on membership drive activity and that two new members had joined. He also reported that there were now 72 paid members.

There being no old or new business, President Chuck Angel, program chairman for Feb, introduced the evening speakers, Elizabeth and Richard Rath. The Raths built a new home in 1998 on an acreage west of the UNI-Dome on Union Road. The home was designed with large south facing windows for partial solar heating and additional Geo-Thermal heating and cooling. Well water at *55* degree F provides the source for a heat pump system and a pond receives the discharge water. Out flow from the pond then has natural drainage to adjacent fields.

Mrs. Rath described the pond construction process and methods used to establish an attractive floral arrangement around and in the pond. In addition to lilly pads and cattails, several different decorative grasses, hardy enough for this region, were used around the perimeter. Large rocks around the pond secure the pond liner and stabilizes the shoreline. Sod and flowering trees were then added along with a flagstone patio and a gravel walking path on each side of the pond. A steel arched footbridge spans the narrower end of the pond, connecting the walking paths. The pond stays open during the winter because of the warmer water flow and permits fish, frogs and other aquatic life to thrive.

Mrs. Rath indicated that the pond and surrounding flower beds do take a lot of work to maintain but that she has gone through the Master Gardener program so was up to that task. Richard takes care of their vegetable garden while she cares for the flowers. Literature for Pond and Water Gardeners as well as the Iowa Master Gardeners program was available after the presentation.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gene Hunck, Co-Secretary