WATERLOO TECHNICAL SOCIETY

10 JANUARY 2001 MEETING MINUTES

The 10 January 2001 meeting of the Waterloo Technical Society was held at the Holiday Inn Greenstreets Restaurant in Cedar Falls, IA with 42 members and guests present. The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Charles Angel at 7:35 PM. Past Presidents and Honorary Members were recognized. Minutes of the 8 November 2000 meeting were read and approved.

Gordon Licht presented the Treasurer's report with the transactions that had taken place between 9 October 2000 to 9 January 2001. The ending balance was $549.92.

Ken Allbaugh gave a short summary of the November Student Night meeting. He had a lot of positive feedback from the school counselors. He would like to have feedback from the members of the Society.

Vice-President Angel announced that the February meeting would be held on 13 February with the speaker being Dr. Mauer on Eye Technology.

Program Chairperson, Elwood Lindquist, introduced the speaker for the evening, the Rev. Dick Swanson. He has had a varied career, starting as a Service Manager for a car dealership and then attending a Texas Seminary and becoming a minister. He has been a missionary, a bush pilot, a parish pastor and a prison chaplain. In 1997 he retired here in Waterloo and is currently a visitation pastor at First Baptist Church. His program for the evening was titled "Life Among the Eskimos" and concerned the time in his life among the Eskimos from 1967 to 1972.

Rev. Swanson lived among the Yupik Eskimos in a village located 3.5 hours (by air) West of Anchorage on the Yukon River (close to the town of Russian Mission). They used the village teenagers for translating when they first arrived until they were able to learn some of the language. Winter temperatures were as low as 60 degrees below zero with summer temperatures getting as high as 65 degrees. Villages are about 100 miles apart and this Delta area has about 50 villages. There were 150 people in this village but some of the villages may have as many as 250 people. The Eskimos use dog sleds in the winter and boats in the summer. Rev. Swanson used his airplane to fly to other villages and to get to cities for medical aid. Supplies are brought in once a year by barge about the first of September. Selling fish provides them with some money (air freight them out fresh to fish plants, they get $5 per fish). They eat fish, bear, beaver, porcupines, and seals. Each person, because they are a native American, gets money from the U.S. government. Mosquitoes are a real problem. Ninety-five percent of the people have TB. Rev. Swanson provided many more interesting facts and stories about his life among the Eskimos. He is currently waiting for a kidney transplant and when he gets one he is planning on returning to the village for a visit. (Note: Rev. Swanson received his kidney transplant on 19 January.)

Questions were answered at the end of the presentation.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Mohling, CO-Secretary