WATERLOO TECHNICAL SOCIETY
Meeting Minutes - 11 February 2004 (*Draft*)

The 11 Feb 2004 meeting of the Waterloo Technical Society was held at the Greenstreets Restaurant located at the Cedar Falls Holiday Inn, with 16 members, 1 speaker, and 11 guests attending (27 dinners total 1 non dinner). President Dick Michael called the meeting to order at 7:20 PM. Guests were introduced and past presidents and honorary members, and current officers for 2003-04 were recognized. Jerry Mohling read the minutes from the 14 Jan 2004 WTS meeting. A treasurer's report was not available.

Old Business:
None.

New Business:
None.

Program: Chairman Don Goeres

Topic: ***Crime Scene Investigation in the Real World (Iowa Style)***

Speaker: Melvin L. Mc Cleary

Mel was born in Des Moines, graduated from Ankeny High School, and received a B.A. in Sociology at the University of Iowa. He worked as an army intelligence coordinator at the Military Intelligence Command, Ft. Holabird, Maryland. Mel graduated from Officer Candidate School, Ft. Benning, Georgia in March, 1970. He served as an intelligence officer with an Infantry Battalion along the DMZ in Korea.

Mel was a private investigator for two years in Baltimore, Maryland before beginning his career with the State of Iowa as an undercover narcotics agent in October, 1975. In 1978 Mel transferred to the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation as a Special Agent having conducted all types of criminal investigations. He was a polygraph examiner for five years (having been trained at the Royal Canadian Mounted Police College), and is best known for his skills in interviewing and interrogation. He has instructed local, state, and federal law enforcement officers throughout the Midwest in interview and interrogation techniques as well as other law enforcement related subjects. He is currently certified as an instructor by the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy.

Mel retired from the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation in July,2003 after 28 years of service, and still misses "the hunt" for perpetrators. He is currently rebuilding a home in Cedar Falls into a duplex from the ground up. Mel and his wife Sandy spend summers at their cottage in Okoboji, Iowa.

Mel gave a very interesting talk centered around the significance of evidence. Evidence includes fragments, blood, splatter, bones, bullets, cigarette butts, clothing, drugs, fabrics, fingernail scrapings, fingerprints, firearms, footprints (with and without shoes), glass, gunshot residue, hair, paint, plants, semen, saliva, tire treads, tool marks, etc. He gave examples, sometimes actual, how these items could lead to finding the perpetrator of a crime. Mel said that fingerprints were still the best evidence. DNA is also becoming very powerful evidence.

New techniques becoming available are computer fingerprint and picture checks, thermal imaging search, linking of computers and data bases between agencies and states, more use of Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and a new laboratory facility in Ankeny.

The meeting ended with Don Goeres presenting the WTS medallion to Mel. The February 04 WTS meeting at Greenstreets was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Dick Michael, President