Women Engineers Rare, But Total Slowly Rising



THREE WOMEN engineers work in offices at the Customs Building in Portland. Meredith Thoms and Isabel Allison (from left) are both with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Carita Harris (right) works for the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, compiling map making information.

By JEAN HENNIGER

Staff Writer, The Oregonian How many women engineers do you know?

Doctors, lawyers, merchants, yes, but women engineers are rare.

Although women pioneered in engineering as early as the 1890's, and everyone knows about Dr. Lillian Gilbreth of "Cheaper by the Dozen" fame, of all the principal professions, engineering is lowest in the proportion of its members who are female.

With Feb. 21 to Feb. 27 being Engineers' week (timed to cover the birthday of George Washington, a trained surveyor and builder of note), the Pacific Northwest Society of Women Engineers have decided to educate girls to opportunities in Engineering.

For the first time there will ing Society. be girls among the some 65 Miss Thoms is working on night at the Hilton, the young treaty. technical fields.

will be the speaker, and after-ling computer work for estab-larea. to learn of career opportunit- transportation. ies in the field.

steps.

Mrs. Isabel Allison are both structural engineer who holds She designs cathode ray with the U.S. Army Corps of a doctor's degree in architectubes and, according to the will be graduated this spring. ing and Julie Latham, are in Engineers, and serve as presi-ture from the University of personnel director, Dan

students which have been in- flood control and water reservited to be guests at the Engi-voir data for the long-negotiatneers' Banquet Wednesday ed Canadian water control

At best count, there are Mrs. Carita Harris, with the U.S.A. some six women engineers U.S. Coast and Geodetic Connie Wilson is a design scholarship candidate in the cording to Louis N. Stone, ington would agree to that. practising professionally in Survey. She compiles the data engineer at Tektronix in Beav- National Society of Profession- head of electrical engineering Portland, but a number are necessary for map preparaterion. Miss Wilson studied aptal Engineers competition. hoping to follow in their foot- tion, often of coastal areas and plied and general science at One girl, Diana Jones, is a Teresa Roemer is in chemi-

Miss Meredith Thoms and Mrs. Hildegard Oswald is a this electronics firm in 1957.



DESIGNING WOMAN is Connie Wilson in the design engineering department at Tektronix. The cathode ray tube she is testing here is one of her own design, one of several she's done since joining the electronics firm in 1957.

people all chosen as being Mrs. Allison, voted federal there. She is with Cooper and the field of engineering. exceptionally oriented in woman employe of the year in Rose Associates, consulting These professionals will no and Linda Ethridge of Vanc- Smith, senior, are both studythe Portland metropolitan engineers who work with doubt soon be joined by such ouver. George Gleeson, dean of the area, is a hydraulic techni-architects on building structur- as Linda Thomas, student at school of engineering at OSU, cian, with her job often involv-al stability in the Portland Reynolds High where she has Williams, has encouraged So the field will broaden

students, especially the girls, data for navigation and water countries have a far higher is the only girl there to have to try should be given all the predominantly male should percentage of women in engi- ever taken advanced electron- encouragement possible." Another woman engineer is neering than is the case in the ics. She hopes to be a nuclear Oregon State University has Besides, women are born

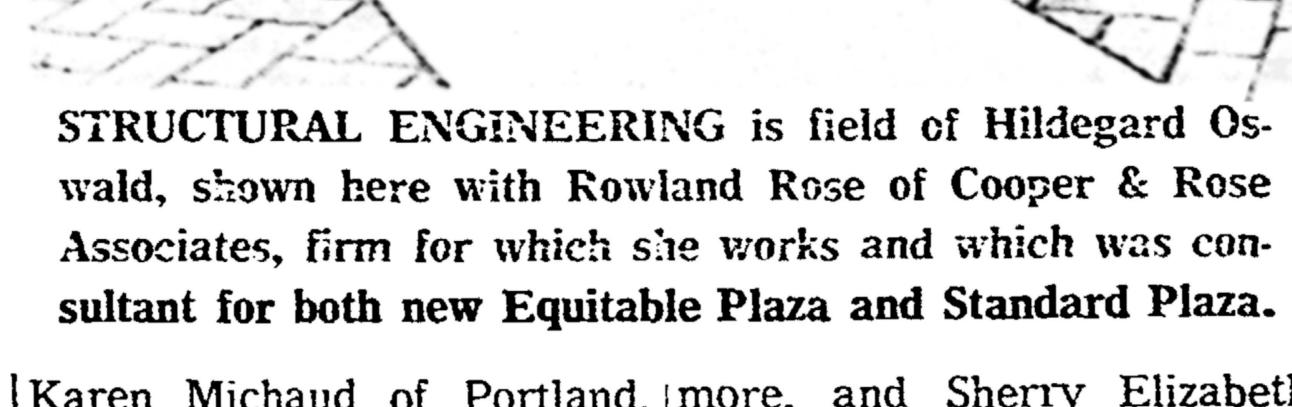
navigation channels. Portland State before joining senior in electricity and elec-cal engineering; Diane Fragall

ly, of the Women's Engineer- met her husband, Joseph, ple of a woman succeeding in in the school of engineering, Shirley Ann Hansen, sopho-

taken the equivalent of six these girls in their pursuit, gradually. And rightly so. The wards a forum will enable lishing power generation, flow | She points out that many years of math and science and saying, "Those brave enough fact that the profession is engineer and is the local six women in engineering, ac- engineers. Even Martha Wash-

> tronics in the school of applied is enrolled in civil engineering. science at Portland State, and Two freshmen, Ardabeth Ebel-

The University of Portland the general engineering course dent and secretary, respective-Brunswick in Germany and Thompson, is a notable exam-has two young women enrolled of study.



Karen Michaud of Portland, more, and Sherry Elizabeth

U.P. engineering dean, W. S. OSU.

at the Corvallis university.

ling electrical engineering at

prove one incentive.