Note From the Editor
The Story of Edward A. Murphy

Edward A. Murphy. That name may or may not ring a bell with you, but every American—and especially every engineer—knows him well. Edward A. Murphy, once a member of this very Club while he worked at Wright Aeronautical Laboratories following WWII, is a household name. Why, you ask? It is none other than former member, Mr. Murphy, who originated what is now universally known as "Murphy's Law."

In 1949, Murphy was one of the engineers working on the rocket-sled experiments being conducted by the USAF at Edwards Air Force Base to test human acceleration tolerances (USAF Project MX981). One experiment involved a set of 16 accelerometers mounted to different parts of the subject's body, in this case Major John Paul Stapp. There were two ways each sensor could be glued to its mount. Of course, somebody managed to install all 16 the wrong way, leading to quite the bumpy ride for Major Stapp.

Murphy then made his original form of his pronouncement, which Major Stapp quoted at a press conference a few days later: "If there are two or more ways to do something, and one of those ways can result in a catastrophe, then someone will do it." Within a short time, "Murphy's Law" was adopted by many in the engineering and technical community. Murphy's Law found its way into *Webster's Dictionary* in 1958. Because I had heard that Mr. Murphy had been a Wright Labs employee, I had Tony Wright research if he was a member of this Club, and he was!

Paradoxically (or perhaps typically), Murphy's Law appears to apply to Murphy's Law. The traditional version of Murphy's Law ("if anything can go wrong, it will, at the worst possible moment") is actually Finagle's Law of Dynamic Negatives. At any rate, here at the Engineers Club, we're proud of all our members, and it's no surprise that the city that gave you the Wrights, Kettering, Midgely, Petrofsky and others, was also a party to "Murphy's Law."

Hours of Operation

General Office Hours 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	**Lunch is served** **Monday through Friday** 11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Banquet Coordinator 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	**Happy Hour—** **Every Friday** 5 – 8 p.m.
Accounting 10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.	

Please note: Breakfast is by reservation only! Please call in advance before planning your breakfast meeting.