Riley-Robb Hall at Cornell University

Celebrating Its Opening

edited by

J. Robert Cooke and Ronald B. Furry
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In the fall of 1953, 46 years after the Department of Biological and Environmental Engineering at Cornell was founded (in 1907) as the Division of Rural Engineering and Architecture, ground was broken for what would become its own home, Riley-Robb Hall, named after its founding fathers, Howard W. Riley and Byron B. Robb. The building was dedicated on October 6, 1954, and in 1956 the Agricultural Engineering Department, as it was then named, occupied its new 2 1/4 acre facility for teaching, research and extension. By Fall Semester 1957, 38 professorial and non-professorial staff, 6 graduate students and 12 office professionals were on the roster, as shown in the new directory of September 25, 1957 in the Appendix. Pictures of many of these individuals can be seen in the photographs included in this album.

The appendix contains a listing of this 1957 directory.
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Credits

- Photographers — Unknown
- Retrieval from Riley-Robb’s Archives — Ron Furry
- Identifications — Ron and Anne Furry, Jim and Dorothy Spencer, Lannie and Lila Boyd, Gil Levine, Mary Millier & Ev Markwardt
- Scans — Cornell University Library
- Photo Restoration & Publisher — J. Robert Cooke
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- Published by The Internet-First University Press
Part I
The Construction of Riley-Robb Hall
Earth-moving

Oxley Polo Arena is in the background
(also pre-Wilson Lab landscape)

September 1953
Construction Site

with Barton Hall
and Alumni Field
in the background

September 1953
Groundbreaking for Riley-Robb Hall

Fall 1953
The Gathering in 1953
with the relocated ‘temporary’
buildings in the background
(and these remain in use after 82 years!)
(enlarged left segment)
(Project Manager)  Ron Furry  
Cy Terry  
Georgia Robb  
Burt Jennings
(enlarged right segment)
Ceremonial groundbreaking with the Golden Shovel

Fall 1953
? Clara Goodman  Georgia Robb       Delia Reyna
More of the group
Howard Riley (pointing)  Clesson Turner  Harold & Virginia Gray

Jane Martin  Lannie & Lila (holding Barbara) Boyd  Susan Boyd & ?Ginny Gray

Howard Riley (pointing)
Orval French
with dedicatory shovel

Judging Pavilion in background
Orval (second from left) in a serious briefing with project managers
Caterpillar and International (TD-24) bulldozers level the site.

Early Fall 1953
The foundation goes in

Late Fall 1953
Twin smokestacks, polo arena, Schoelkopf Stadium and snow cover
Construction begins

Stocking Hall, Wing Hall and the Livestock Judging Pavilion are in the background

Winter 1953-1954
Earth-moving completed and the snow flies
The steel superstructure goes up.

And notice the mid-fifties car design.

Early Fall 1954
And up to the elevator penthouse

October 1954
Part 2
A Formal Dinner Celebration on March 3, 1956 in 400 Riley-Robb Hall
Orval French and Forrest Wright perform carving honors
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(Reverse direction of previous photo)</th>
<th>Orval French (seated)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>?</td>
<td>Georgia Robb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howard Riley</td>
<td>B.B. Robb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julia Riley</td>
<td>Clara Goodman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juan Reyna</td>
<td>“Goodie” Goodman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delia Reyna</td>
<td>Harvey Roehl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J.C. McCurdy</td>
<td>L.M. Roehl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adda McCurdy (vacated)</td>
<td>Minnie Roehl</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
L. William Larson and spouse
(standing)

Juanito (Johnny) Ordoveza
Helen French

Norman Hurd

Burt Jennings (immediately adjacent to Hurd)

?

?

?

Hollis Davis

Harriet Davis

Mary Shepardson

Prof. E.S. Shepardson

Elizabeth

& Ed Foss
Billie Wright

Lila Boyd

“Doc” Wright

Gil Levine

?
A.M. Goodman

Stan & Mary Shepardson

Pete Knapp

Jackie Knapp

Clesson Turner

Elizabeth Turner (facing camera)

Clayton Van Hout (with fork in mouth)

Wes Gunkel (standing)

Lu Gunkel

vacant seat of Ron Furry

Anne Furry

68
L.M. & Minnie Roehl

Cy Terry

Carl Edwards
(end of table)

Charles Robert Rochet
(1st to right of cake)

Marie Layer
(hand raised)

E.D. Markwardt
(2nd to right of cake)

L.M. & Minnie Roehl
Helen French
(corner end of table)

Bill Millier

Mary Millier

Marie Layer

John Layer

Chuck Ditmars

Olin Dart

Elizabeth & Ed Foss
(door behind her)

Harriett Davis

Dorothy Spencer

Pat Ditmars
Doc Wright (with pipe)  
in kitchen  

B.B. Robb  
(with cane)
Part 3
A Gathering
with Slide Show in
400 Riley-Robb Hall
Jim Spencer, Jr.
Karen Spencer
(blue)

Lu Gunkel
with Gerald
(left of fireplace)

Jim Spencer, Jr.

Bill Millier, III
Helen & Orval French  
(back corner)

Paul Hoff  
(at projector)

Joan (red) & Bob Shelton

Carl & Olive Winkelblech  
(holding dau. Mary Ann)

Mary Millier  
(necklace)

Mary Ann Mitchell  
(light blue)

Jane Martin  
(dark blue)

Edith Perry

Gordon Perry  
(and baby holding bottle)

Anne Furry  
Catherine Kellogg (hidden)

Millier dau.  
(light blue)

(leftmost at table)

?  
Bob Kellogg

80
Lannie Boyd (near drapes)

Stan Shepardson  
(standing)

Kate & Mr. Hurlbutt  
(dark blue dress)  

Ev Markwardt

Velma Markwardt

Mary Millier

Bill Millier  
(with pipe)

Bob Kellogg
Orval French

Roger Miller

Paul Hoff (projectionist)

Pete Knapp

Billie Wright

Lila, child, Lannie Boyd (rightmost venetian blind)

Elizabeth & Ed Foss (behind candle)

Joan & Bob Shelton

Lu Gunkel

?Sharon Gunkel (blue jumper with red tie)
Part 4
Photos of Individuals
Mary Ann Mitchell
? and Joan Shelton
Joan Shelton
Clesson Turner
L. William Larson and son
A Row-Crop Mist-Concentrate Sprayer
developed by Wes Gunkel (leftmost person)
### Appendix: Agricultural Engineering Department Room Directory

**September 25, 1957**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Room</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baughman, Samuel</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bennett, A. Herbert</td>
<td>214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boyd, L. L.</td>
<td>306</td>
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<tr>
<td>Busch, Charles</td>
<td>216</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clough, Harold</td>
<td>60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dart, Olin K.</td>
<td>422</td>
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<tr>
<td>Davis, Hollis R.</td>
<td>318</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deane, Frank P.</td>
<td>305</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ditmars, Charles D.</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edwards, C. M.</td>
<td>320</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foss¹, E. W.</td>
<td>114</td>
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<tr>
<td>French, O. C</td>
<td>104</td>
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<tr>
<td>Furry, Ronald B.</td>
<td>328</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gray², H. E.</td>
<td>118</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gunkel, Wesley</td>
<td>226</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hoff, Paul</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jennings, B. A.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Knapp, L. W.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Larson, L. W.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Layer, John W.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leach, Arthur</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lechner, Fred G.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Levine, Gilbert</td>
<td>122</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ludington, David C.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manley, Philip L.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Markwardt, Everett</td>
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<tr>
<td>Millier, William</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nebesky, Edward A.</td>
<td>147</td>
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<tr>
<td>Perry, Gordon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rochat, Charles, Jr.</td>
<td>62</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shepardson, E. S.</td>
<td>204</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spencer³, James</td>
<td>220</td>
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<tr>
<td>Swart, Harold</td>
<td>74</td>
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<tr>
<td>Terry, C. W.</td>
<td>212</td>
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<tr>
<td>Turner, C. N.</td>
<td>232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Van Hout, C. G.</td>
<td>62</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winkelblech, Carl</td>
<td>308</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wright, F. B.</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ On leave first term
² On leave until Dec. 15, 1957
³ On leave until April 1, 1958
Graduate Students
Bennett, G. Keith, 42
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Fenzl, Richard, 76
Just, Jerome O., 416
Merrell, Harold H., 61
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DeChellis, Mrs. Lois, 304
Diaz, Mrs. Virginia, 206
Hurlbutt, Mrs. Catherine, 106
Kellogg, Mrs. Catherine, 112
Loomis, Mrs. Gladys, 120
Martin, Miss Jane, 312
Mitchell, Mrs. Mary Ann, 230
Salino, Mrs. Jane, 322
Shelton, Mrs. Joan, 108
West, Miss Nancy, 147
Wilson, Mrs. Josephine, 222