



TENNESSEE INVENTORS ASSOCIATION

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NOVEMBER 8, 2003

HIGHLIGHTS OF OCTOBER 2003 MEETING

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CONDENSED VERSION CALL FOR FULL VERSION

If you were to think about a young farm boy in Kentucky who could parlay a bunch of onions into a prolific pig and thence onto the cattle business and ultimately become a purveyor of recycled bottles to local moon shiners you would be referring to our speaker Dr. Sam Hurst.

You might ask—what in the world has that got to do with invention? The answer, plenty! Enterprise, ambition, courage, confidence, and willingness to venture into the unknown surely add up to the makings of an inventor and certainly a prospective entrepreneur.

Using resources gained from his business activity Sam Hurst managed to qualify for entrance into Berea Collage in Kentucky at the age of fifteen. Because of his practical experience, he explained, he was appointed the task of approving experiments submitted by Navy V12 personnel attending the collage studying physics.

Sam then moved on to the University of Kentucky where he completed his graduate studies and earned his doctorate.

Holding a PhD in physics, Doctor Hurst worked at the Oak Ridge National Laboratories on numerous projects. Among those important endeavors Dr Hurst worked on, we learned, was the study of materials down to the atomic level.

While at the ORNL he was taught how to write patent applications the first one of which was done in 1951. At this point in his presentation he noted that his first patent took about thirteen months from application to issue. It seemed a long time then but now he pointed out, three to four years is not uncommon.

Our speaker reminded us to keep in mind that success in ones “kooky” life style of research and invention, not to mention that of business, requires the help and support of family and friends.

Any attempt to paraphrase the career of Sam Hurst as he told it in his interesting presentation would be a great disservice to our speaker. Boiling down those colorful, productive and rewarding years would not be possible in this report. We note however how he detailed the development of the now widely used touch screen system. That effort was a factor in the founding of Elographics, a local company. It was in Oak Ridge for many years and later acquired by Elo Touch systems that ultimately became a division of the Tyco Corporation. Many millions of the system originated by Dr. Hurst are being produced and generate sales of as much as five hundred million dollars annually.

The history of his multi faceted profession can best be appreciated by obtaining a copy of his speech, which he has generously offered for the asking. He suggested using his e-mail address (hursts@esper.com)---make sure to mention TIA.

Dr. Hurst left us with the thought that “inventions must be utilized, patented and more than just a show of vanity”. We will be well advised he urged, to advance our inventions to the stage of having a product and a market with buyers willing to purchase the resulting handiwork.

ALSO

In other activities taking place at this meeting we had an introduction of visitors among who were Gloria Andrews, Bee Yap and Anneris Waters

John Galkiewicz brought us up to date on his pet toy business. He explained how problems with vendors who delay deliveries or ship improper goods could cramp ones cash flow and seriously hamper progress.

DUES ARE DUE---A MESSAGE FROM OUR TREASURER ---“Annual dues are \$30.00 payable in January. Anyone joining TIA after January will pay a pro-rated amount. Please contact the treasurer at 865-483-0151 for the pro-rated amount.”

NEXT MEETING NOVEMBER 15, 2003

Speaking this month will be Larry Bohanan, local inventor who is retired from ORNL where he was an engineering draftsman. Larry has perfected and is now marketing his invention known as the “Quadricizer” It has been designed for victims of disease or accident affecting their arms and legs. The machine forces the limbs to move thus improving strength and mobility. He has spent ten years and many thousands of dollars perfecting his idea. How he worked with Veterans facilities and the Patricia Neal Center, not to mention the contact he has had with many famous people will be most interesting.

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