

ENGINEER FOR THE GOOD LIFE
WRITTEN BY ALICE BAKER

Twelve years ago an engineer and his family of four, a pretty pink-cheeked wife and two sons, came to our town. Little did we know of our good fortune. Our town has little to give to people and the turn-over of population is great.

But this engineer was not looking for what a town can give to anyone. On the contrary, he was looking for an opportunity to give constructive help to the town. Accordingly, he bought a house, near the center of town, and he and his family settled themselves in the mosaic of living in our very small town of Eagle.

It takes time to estimate the measure of a man, but in that proper interval, we learned that he was born in Newton, Kansas; attended school there; later attended High School in Topeka, Kansas; and then went on to the University of Kansas where he took his Bachelor's of Science and Electrical degree. A good student, he received a Fellowship at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston, Mass. in 1939.

During his collegiate years, he made the acquaintance of Mary Edith Challacombe. Very soon he decided that she was the person he wanted for his life partner. Mary Edith, however, needed to be convinced of that fact. With his usual quiet, unwavering persistence, Sam ceased to be the "pest"

Edith and were in her diary, and became the idol of

Eddith had dubbed him in her diary, and became the idol of her life__an opinion she has never changed.

Sam completed one year of work at M. I.T. and then secured a position with the Allis Chalmers Company. He brought his family to West Allis to live ^{two} a son, Stephen; ^{↓ DON arrived during} ~~having been~~ ^{West Allis.} ~~born during the residence in Boston.~~

Foster's work with Allis Chalmers was that of designing transformers. He was also responsible for supervision of their construction and their subsequent functioning.

Close friends have noted Foster's growth and mastery of his job. In his early years of residence, he suffered from stomach ulcer__ a tension induced disease which showed his great concern for his job and his family__ but as the years have gone by and success has resulted from his conscientious and skillful efforts, that illness has entirely disappeared.

Foster has made many transformers, but his crowning achievement came three years ago when he designed and supervised the building of the transformer for the Atomic Energy Commission at Portsmouth, Ohio. This was the largest Transformer in the world. Since its finished size was larger than the capacity of any carrier, it was necessary to design it in sections, thus demanding special skill in that process.

At a cost of approximately three-fourth^s million dollars, and with nearly a year of actual time for conception and construction, the transformer was installed in Portsmouth where it supplemented production of electrical power.

A master in his line of electronics, Foster has contributed (on request) to several electrical publications among them being the Allis Chalmers Electrical Review and to seven Trade Journals. ^{The latest to be published by} ~~(On Monday Oct. 13.~~ The Allis Chalmers Electrical Review will ^{b.c.} ~~publish~~ his article Development of New Load Tap Changing Mechanism for Power Transformation.

Most of Foster's home associates are unaware of his electrical genius, ~~but~~ they are very appreciative of his splendid influence upon the youth of the community. Born of church-going grandparents, a mother who was for four years a missionary in Japan before her marriage, he has, from youth up, given unstintingly of his energies to church and civic betterment. His concept of the right life is that of a Covenant with God — given an immense field for good works, your achievement in that field receives proportionate and appropriate reward.

Still a young man, Foster's cheerful acceptance of this philosophy places him in many fields of service: —

Treasurer of the School Board, Trustee of Methodist Church; with his wife's help, sponsors for the Intermediate Methodist Youth Fellowship; Chm. of the Local Troop Com. on Boy Scouts; teacher of ^a youth class in Sunday School; helper with Boy Scouts whenever there is need; Delegate to National Town and Country Conference in Sioux City, Iowa.

The home of the Fosters, centrally located, is really a Boy and Girl Club House. Always open, there is never a time out of school hours that neighbor boys and girls are not visitors.

Already the returns of this man's unselfish service ,and that of his equally out- giving wife, are coming in. Of the score of young people who have been drawn into their influence seven have decided to enter Christian vocations. In the town there is little teen-age delinquency, and not one of the group of young people who are members of the MYF and drop-ins at the Foster home have ever been involved in those few defections.

People who know Foster recognize that he is not only a transformer, but also a dynamo; transformer for stepping down the wild vagaries of youth, but also dynamo to step up the voltage of adolescents into paths of rewarding service.