

OBITUARY - J. R. G. HANLON

Mr. Jack Hanlon, of Dunedin, had been a member of the Management Committee of this Society for 3 years when he lost his life in an aircraft accident at Waimate on 31st March last. He was widely known because of his life-time as a structural engineer and was also prominent as an amateur airman active in stunt flying, gliding and ascents in his hot air balloon.

After leaving Otago Boys' High School, Mr. Hanlon was not long in deciding to train as a Structural Engineer. He joined the Ministry of Works, serving in Dunedin and Wellington until 1946, except during the War when he saw active service in the Navy, largely on convoy duties. He gained Associate Membership of the Institution of Structural Engineers in 1945, and worked for the Fletcher Organisation for some years before setting up as a Consulting Engineer in 1953. His firm took the title of J. R. G. Hanlon and Partners in recent years, and continues to flourish under that name.

Among his professional activities he was for a term the Chairman of the Otago Branch of the New Zealand Institution of Engineers, and it had been customary for him to attend to Registration arrangements for Institution Conferences when held in Dunedin. This service was to be repeated in 1976.

Jack Hanlon was driven by his enthusiasm for his work and his hobbies and few have applied themselves with such single-mindedness to unsparing labours day and night in pursuit of their interests. One recalls the early days when he would open his study book in the interval at the Cinema; his habits of working till well after midnight when immersed in designing his structures; the similar hours devoted to the making of a Fokker D7, a type of fighter plane used by the Germans in the First World War. Many in the building trade will gratefully remember his services given free, and with enjoyment, to the task of bringing builder's concrete out of the "no fines" class into the class of a well designed and well placed structural material.

When looking around at the large numbers of structures which serve as monuments to him it can be stated that he as an individual turned out a great many more structural designs than most of his fellow men, and, in the reckoning, this must rank as good service to the community.

He will be remembered with affection by friends in the construction industry throughout New Zealand and in Australia, and remembered with warm sympathy for his widow and son.