

A Brief Tour of the Club: Then and Now



The building in 1921

The great inventor Charles F. Kettering and industrialist Col. Deeds formed The Engineers Club of Dayton in 1914. They wanted a meeting place for engineers and others brought to Dayton by industry and the flood-control work that followed the 1913 flood.

The first home for the Club was a downtown residence owned by Delco (Dayton Engineering Laboratories Co., later Delphi) that Deeds and Kettering formed to manufacture the ignition systems they and their "Barn Gang" of NCR craftsmen had invented.

In 1916, Deeds and Kettering bought the 110 Monument Avenue property. Inspired by British clubs, the exterior is of the Georgian style developed in England between the 17th and 18th centuries. Except for the Wedgwood Room, the interior is mostly Tudor, for a classic "Old English" look and feel.

The building was dedicated on Feb. 2, 1918, when Orville Wright accepted the keys on behalf of the members.



Originally the loggia (top photo) above the entrance was an open porch.



The Loggia offers a view of RiverScape across the street. The small bar room was a barbershop in the early days. Orville Wright liked to get his hair cut there while looking out of the porch at airplanes fly at McCook Field northeast across the Great Miami River. McCook Field was, the first military aviation research base in world. That site is now Deeds Point, where the 2003 Centennial of Aviation was centered.

LOBBY LEVEL

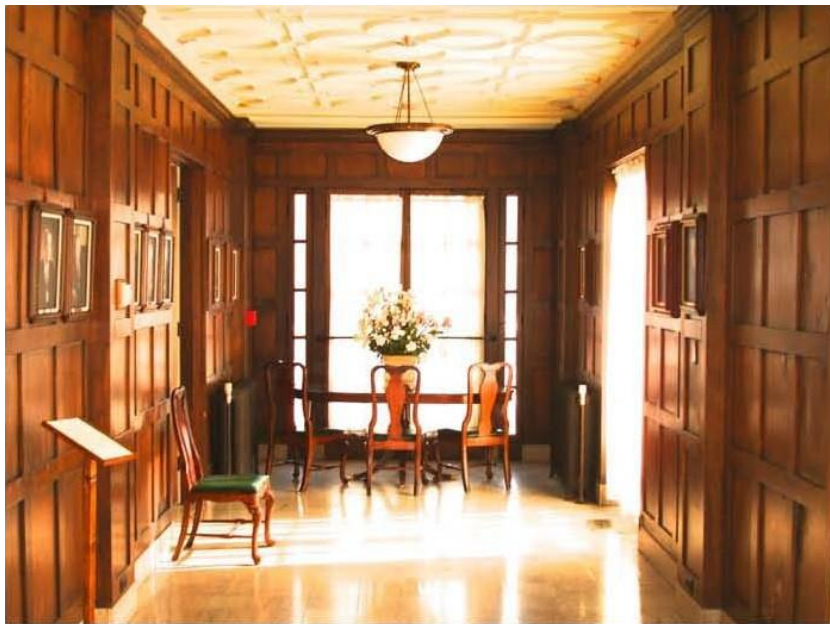


The lobby in 1921

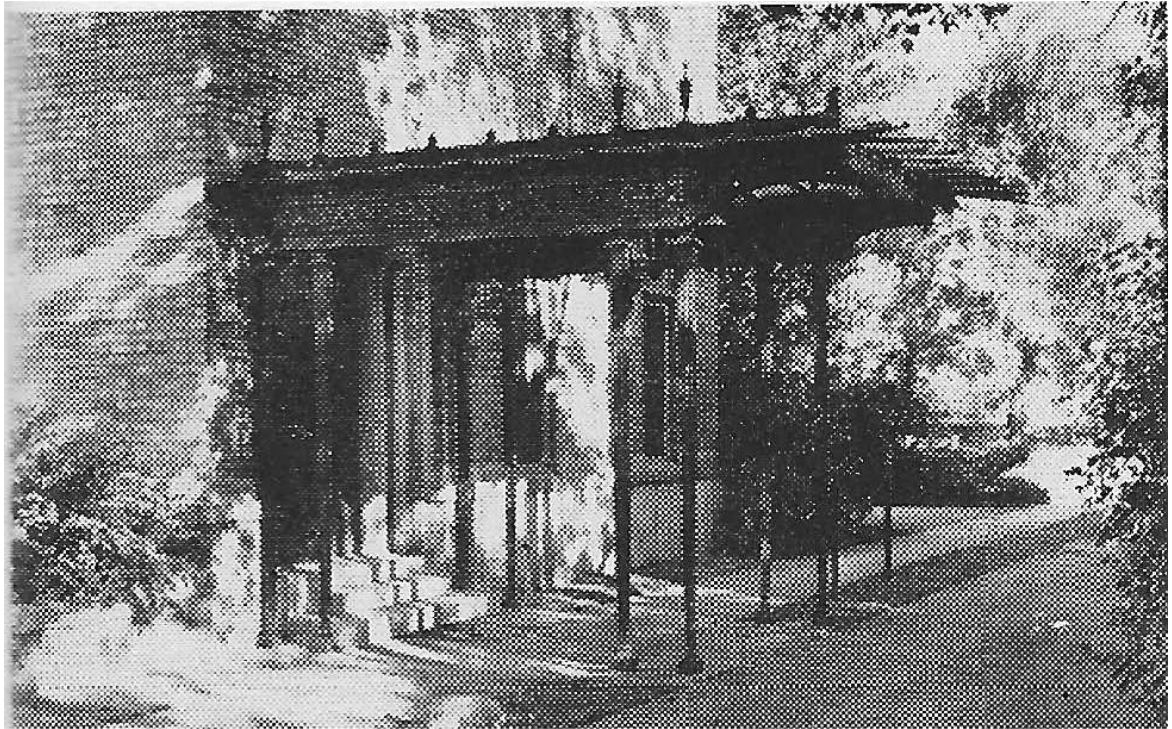
The coatroom area (far wall in the 1921 photo above) and the steps (near left) originally had leaded-glass doors like the doors to the Dining Room.



A bust of Charles Kettering is at the left of the stairs. Out of view to the right of the stairs is a bust of Col. Edward Deeds,



The Gallery off the lobby displays some of men and women inducted into the Engineering and Science Hall of Fame by the non-profit organization of that name.



The glass-paned doors at the end of the hallway originally opened to a canopy over the driveway where members let their wives and guests enter protected from the elements.

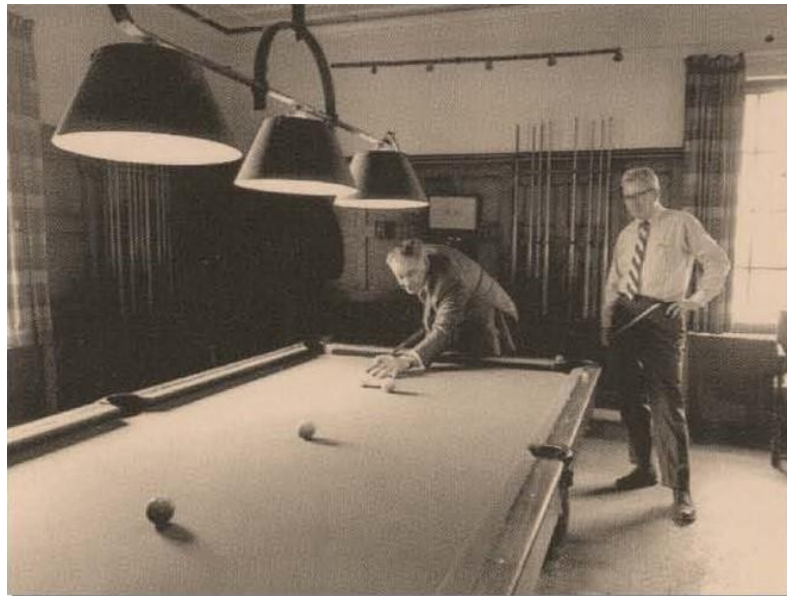


The Wedgwood Room at the end the Gallery was originally the Ladies Lounge.



Note the pale blue jasper design and color, taken from the innovative English dinnerware pioneered by Josiah Wedgwood in the 1700 s. The decorative painters who restored the walls and relief ceilings around 1998 are the same ones who restored the interiors of the Biltmore mansion in Asheville, North Carolina, and Buckingham Palace.

Upper level

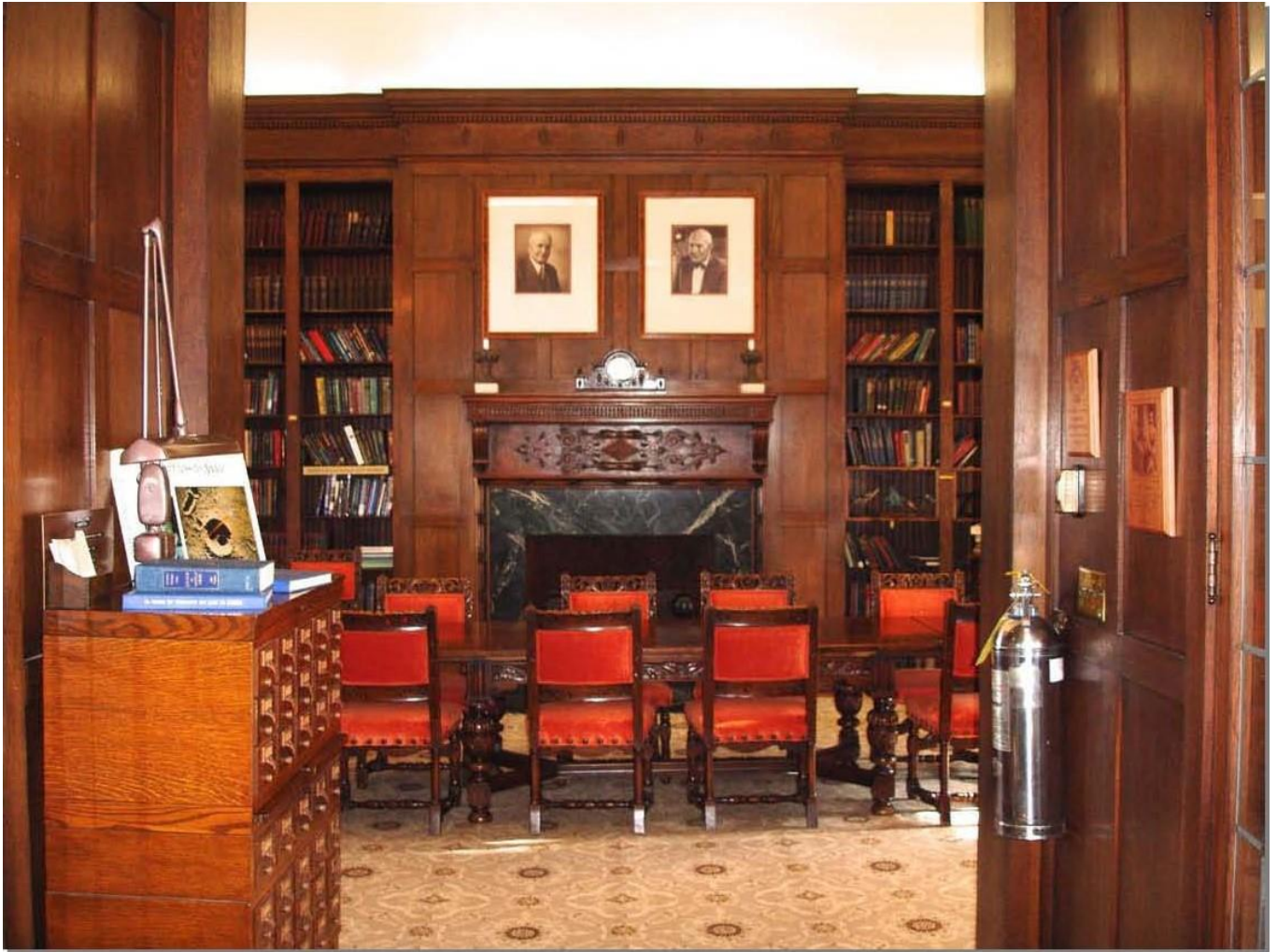


On the west wing at the lobby level is the Wright Room, originally a Game Room.



The former Lounge on the third floor is now the English Room, used for dining and other





The Harold Shaw Library, a state-of-the-art resource in the first half of the 20th Century, includes the main room for meetings and special small-group dinners.



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Above is a circa 1938 photo of the dining room and table that Joe Desch and his wife bought for their home on Greenmount Boulevard in Oakwood. Joe Desch headed the super top-secret effort in NCR's Building 26 that broke the Nazi Enigma code in World War II, a feat revealed only half a century after the war was won. Joe Desch's daughter, Debbie Desch Anderson, donated the table to the club for members to use. It is in the first reading room on the right as one enters the library hall (photo below). Among the people who would have been served at this table, Debbie says, were Britain's code-breaker genius, Alan Turing (subject of the movie *The Imitation Game*), Admiral Joseph Redman, future Admiral Joseph Wenger and Commander Edward Travis of Bletchley Park where Britain's secret work was centered.





The auditorium (1921 photo above) seats 350. Here Charles Kettering on Saturday mornings held "Mr. Wizard" type classes for school children.





The Dining Room on the lower level still offers a warm, classic atmosphere in which our members and guests can enjoy a quiet meal.



Our legacy still serves. Come see for yourselves.