

Acronyms in *Technology News*

AASHTO	American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
APWA	American Public Works Association
CTRE	Center for Transportation Research and Education (at ISU)
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
Iowa DOT	Iowa Department of Transportation
ISU	Iowa State University
LTAP	Local Technical Assistance Program
MUTCD	Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices
NACE	National Association of County Engineers
TRB	Transportation Research Board



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration



Iowa Department
of Transportation

LTAP is a national program of the FHWA. Iowa LTAP, which produces this newsletter, is financed by the FHWA and the Iowa DOT and administered by CTRE.

Center for Transportation Research and Education
ISU Research Park
2711 S. Loop Drive, Suite 4700
Ames, Iowa 50010-8664
Telephone: 515-294-8103
Fax: 515-294-0467
www.ctre.iastate.edu/

Any reference to a commercial organization or product in this newsletter is intended for informational purposes only and not as an endorsement. The opinions, findings, or recommendations expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of LTAP sponsors. All materials herein are provided for general information, and neither LTAP nor its sponsors represent that these materials are adequate for the purposes of the user without appropriate expert advice. ISU makes no representations or warranties, expressed or implied, as to the accuracy of any information herein and disclaims liability for any inaccuracies.

Iowa State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, sex, marital status, disability, or status as a U.S. veteran. Inquiries can be directed to the Director of Equal Opportunity and Diversity, 3680 Beardshear Hall, 515-294-7612.

Subscribe to *Technology News*

Subscriptions to *Technology News* are free. We welcome readers' comments, questions, and suggestions. To subscribe, or to obtain permission to reprint articles, contact the editor (see page 4).

Subscribe to *Tech E-News*

For brief, e-mail reminders about upcoming workshops and other LTAP news, subscribe to Iowa LTAP's free service: Tech E-News. Send an email to Marcia Brink, mbrink@iastate.edu. Type "Subscribe Tech E-News" in the subject line.

25th Anniversary

Iowa's Mr. LTAP: Stan Ring

"Please call me if you have any questions. My phone number is 515-294-6777." So Dr. Stan Ring ended his front-page column in the first issue of *Technology News* in April 1983.

This was the personal style that earned Ring his reputation as "Mr. LTAP." The original director of Iowa's Rural Technical Assistance Program (RTAP, later Local Technical Assistance Program or LTAP), Ring made himself available to Iowa transportation agencies needing information or assistance.

With his knowledge, experience, and passion about transportation engineering, Ring was a quiet powerhouse of a resource.

Ring spent the first nearly two decades of his career with the Iowa DOT (then the Iowa State Highway Commission). There he managed urban work on Iowa's federal-aid highways and acted as the commission's liaison with federal and local agencies in transportation planning.

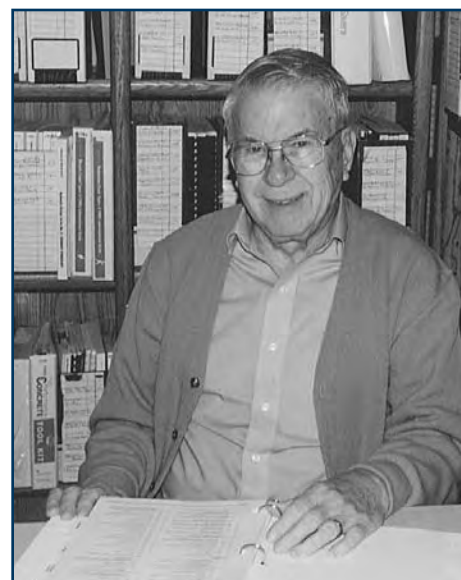
In 1967 Ring left the agency to teach transportation courses in ISU's Department of Civil and Construction Engineering.

For 20 years, in addition to teaching, Ring advised graduate students and conducted research, most significantly, wind-tunnel analysis of snow drifting, and design of low-water stream crossings.

Ring had a special interest in and talent for outreach, and eventually he led ISU's Civil Engineering Extension Program. It was in this role that he competed for and won the RTAP contract.

As RTAP-then-LTAP director, Ring set a standard for service that Iowa LTAP staff still remember and try to emulate.

Ring personally connected with transportation workers around the state, tirelessly promoting transportation engineering, teaching workshops, and building his extensive knowledge base and photo library of Iowa's transportation history.



Stan Ring enthusiastically welcomed visitors to the LTAP library.

Whether discussing civil engineering initiatives with new county engineers or quizzing old hands about Iowa's transition from mud-clogged byways to well-drained paved roads, Ring brought an enthusiastically engaging spark to every interaction.

After retiring from ISU in 1988, Ring continued serving Iowans for 12 years as LTAP's part-time librarian.

Ring oversaw the library as enthusiastically as he had built the LTAP center. He stocked the shelves with an up-to-date collection of slideshows, videos, and publications and sent them, on request, to towns and counties across the state. He oversaw the transition from a paper catalog of holdings to a user-friendly online electronic catalog, www.ctre.iastate.edu/library/search.cfm. He developed a display about LTAP's services and carted it to dozens of events where transportation workers gathered, like APWA and ISAC conferences.

One lovely day in September 2000, Ring dismantled the LTAP display he had just hosted at Iowa's annual road maintenance expo, then went home for a little nap. He died that afternoon. Mr. LTAP was 77.

Next time you're in Ames, stop by the LTAP office and visit the Stan Ring Memorial Library, now under the able stewardship of Jim Hogan. Stan would have appreciated the convenient, moveable stacks. ■