

From the Daily Iowan, March 14, 1962 (Thanks to Jim Huff, '62EE):

ENGINEERS FIND STONE, MECCA MOVES ALONG

The Sherlock Holmeses among engineering seniors found the traditional Blarney Stone Tuesday, after less than two days of searching, as Mecca Week moved toward its climax -- the Mecca Ball at the Iowa Memorial Union Friday.

Tom Breese, E4, Iowa City, publicity chairman for Mecca Week, said the stone was found shortly after 10 a.m. Tuesday, in a cemetery east of Hills.

"We found the stone earlier this year because the law students are farther away and we didn't play as many tricks on them," he said. "We concentrated on finding the stone instead."

Engineering and law students at SUI (sic, State University of Iowa, in those days) have a long history of playing pranks on each other, particularly during Mecca Week.

Last year the search for the stone continued until shortly before the Mecca Smoker.

Breese said the search had continued from Monday, when the seniors received the clue, "The seventh most important battle in World War Two," which consisted of coordinates on a map and a clue in the parking lot of the Materials Testing Laboratory.

That clue, "The Hawkeyes raced down the field," took them to Hawkeye Downs in Cedar Rapids, then to Herbert Hoover School in West Branch, where they were told to find something that is "normally an aid to navigation." This led them to the Lighthouse at North Liberty. (Note: The Lighthouse was another popular watering hole, not as great as Doc's Annex)

From there, they went to the bridge north of Wellman and to the Wellman Golf Course, where they were directed to Plum Grove, the home of Iowa's first governor. There, they received the vital clue that led them to the stone.

In other Mecca Week activities, a beard judging contest was held Tuesday night, with about 15 contestants permitted to enter two of the three categories - - heaviest, handsomest, and most original. First prize in each of the categories will be razors, with slide rules for second.

Winners will be announced Thursday.

Judge for the contest was Miss Elizabeth Englert, House Manager of Quadrangle Dormitory.

