

EAGA Business Builder

Volume 13

Issue 49

eaganm.com

December 12, 2017

Today's speaker was Thomas F. Keleher, Esq., of Keleher & McLeod



Mr. Keleher was born here in Albuquerque - a few years ago. He graduated from New Mexico Military Institute and also received a Civil Engineer Degree from the University of New Mexico. While attending college, Tom had a couple of interesting summer jobs. During one of those adventures, he worked with a surveying crew on the Glen Canyon Dam construction project. They were charged with determining how much rock was taken away during the project, since the contractor was being paid by the amount of rock removed. While building the dam, there was a point when the construction crew was pouring 8,000 cubic yards of concrete per day. That is enough

concrete to cover a football field 5 feet deep. After college, Mr. Keleher attended OCS in Newport Beach. That is Officer Candidate School for the US Navy. He wanted to work for the Civil Engineering Corp on some land based site. As is the usual case with the US Military, they determine skills, get an idea of the person's particular interests, then assign duty based on those skills, but in a place pretty much opposite of the preference. Since Tom noted that he didn't really want to be stuck on a ship, he was assigned to a supply ship. The Navy was kind enough to figure out that there were two Thomas Keleher's being assigned at the time, and the duties had been switched. This Tom Keleher ultimately ended up in the Civil Engineer Corp in the Philippines; in December, 1964. That was just a few months after the Gulf of Tonkin incident. While on duty in the Philippines, Tom was well aware of the increasing conflict in that region. In 1967, his duty commitment was nearing its end, but Tom felt obligated to contribute to our military's efforts in Viet Nam. He chose to extend his tour for an additional year and be assigned to duty in Viet Nam. While there his unit dredged out Subic Bay (so that the US Military ships could dock there); and they also built the military camp at Huey - located only about 60 miles south of the DMZ. After that, Tom returned to Albuquerque. He worked with his brother in a residential / commercial real estate business. During that time, Tom earned a Professional Engineer License. He then took a job as an engineer on the Cochiti Dam construction - in charge of quality control. That lasted about 6 months. The construction company that he worked for, was a good company, but their work was all over the US. Tom was not interested in the necessary travel, so he instead opted for staying in Albuquerque; and doing something else. By this time, he had married the wonderful, and apparently incredibly patient, Greta. And they were raising their 5 children, so having gainful employment was pretty important. Tom's father had a law firm that employed two of Tom's brothers, a cousin, and 8 other attorneys, so Tom went to Law School. He quickly passed the bar. [skip the joke about not passing the bar, but going 1 for a beer]. The law firm has an interesting history of its own. Tom's father, Will, was born in 1886, and dropped out of school after the 8th grade when his father's death made him the family's sole bread winner. Tom's father had various jobs, including: working for Western Union; being a clerk for APS; and being a reporter - advancing to City Editor for the newspaper. Will Keleher was a determined young man. He decided to go to Law School and was admitted as a 'conditional student' because of his limited prior education. Proving that he was capable, Will graduated after 2 years. In those days, lawyers had to build a clientele from prior experience or word of mouth. It was a slow starting process. The elder Mr. Keleher was the supporter for his own family now, and prospects didn't look good for making it in Albuquerque. One of his newspaper friends was politically savvy, and through some great event manipulation got Will Keleher hired as the City Attorney. (If you didn't hear Tom's presentation, have him tell you that interesting and humorous story). City attorney was not a full time job, but it did provide enough income that the Keleher family remained in Albuquerque. Will was able to establish his own firm; hire a partner, Archibald McLeod, for about \$125 a month; and begin a 102 year (and counting) law practice. When Tom joined the firm in 1974 there were 10 attorneys. By 1989, mostly based on work for PNM, the staff had increased to 60 attorneys. In the early 1990s, PNM decided to take their legal services "in house", so Keleher & McLeod had a drastic downturn in business. By 1997, they were down to 30 attorneys. In 2012 the firm negotiated a new, long term lease, for 26,000 sq ft of office space in their current location. Very soon thereafter, 5 of their attorneys decided to form their own law firm, taking an entire segment of business with them. This past year, thanks to an understanding and very friendly Lessor, Keleher & McLeod revised their space lease back to 13,000 sq. ft. The decreased space requires fewer offices, so some of the attorneys will be leaving the firm. Many are the 'older' guys that are retiring. One of those is Tom. He is reducing his work load now, and soon will retire to have an "of counsel" relationship with the firm. Tom says his next adventure will certainly involve he and Greta traveling to visit their children. That will mean trips to Massachusetts to see their attorney son; to Montana to see their engineer son; back to Albuquerque to visit their architect son; then off to visit their financial advisor son, when he is not off tending to clients in The Netherlands; then finally to visit their daughter, who has the most prestigious job of all. She is a stay at home Mom. Sounds like there won't be much time for fishing; or playing checkers, or building dams, but the partners of 54 years, and counting, (their wedding anniversary is this month) are planning on some more good times. Before today's presentation, not many of us knew about Tom's extensive interest and education in engineering, nor did we know that he was a good singer. But today we heard some great engineering stuff, and he really did an excellent job on his Swan Song. Congratulations to Tom on his retirement and Thank You for the many years of participation in EAGA. Hopefully Mr. Keleher's travels will have him stop by Tuesday breakfast and EAGA events every now and then.

Business Leads:

None written down today

Reciprocity:

None Noted today.

Take the time to leave a Shout Out, and/or review the 'Shout Out' section of our web site to see commentary and tributes left by other members

President Dave's Tech Tip of the Week:

SSD (Solid State Drives) versus HDD (Hard Disk Drive): Solid state drives are the newer technology. They don't have moving parts; have very quick access speeds; and are more expensive than the alternative. Hard disk drives have platters that spin at 7200 rpm; read/write access is slower than SSD; it is proven technology that has been around for a long time. SSD prices, initially, were much too expensive for the 'common computer user'. Demand and manufacturing technology have allowed the cost to begin decreasing, so now newer computers have both types of drives. The SSD is used for storage of regularly accessed data and the HDD is used primarily for data storage. Technology is even available that has the computer decide what information will be needed regularly and that information will be placed on the SSD for quick access.

- ◆ Thank you to Mario, David, and everyone else involved in the planning and execution of another very enjoyable Holiday Party. The many folks that attended all enjoyed good food, good conversation, and much frivolity. And there were excellent door prizes as well. Thank you again to all involved.
- ◆ Please note that there will not be any Tuesday meetings on December 26th, nor on January 2nd. Hope everyone has a Very Merry Christmas; enjoys the remanences of a Happy Hanukkah; and begins a very enjoyable and prosperous New Year.

Badge Board Greeters

Dec 19th	Steve Grant—Downtown Historic Bed & Breakfast
Dec 26th	NO MEETING - CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
Jan 2nd	NO MEETING - NEW YEAR HOLIDAY
Jan 9th	Paul Losey—Covenant Schools of America
Jan 17th	

Upcoming Speakers

Dec 19th	Jeff Sakamoto—Southwest Business Advancement, LLC
Dec 26th	NO MEETING - CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
Jan 2nd	NO MEETING - NEW YEAR HOLIDAY
Jan 9th	Jay Weingardt—The Fitness Superstore
Jan 17th	

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