Edwin Espy Clark was born in Mitchell, South Dakota on December 24, 1896, and moved to Hot Springs with his family in 1910. He enrolled at the School of Mines in 1913 and graduated with a B.S. degree in Mining Engineering in 1918. After graduation he was a Physics instructor at the School of Mines for two years before accepting a Graduate Assistant position at the University of Minnesota. Ed returned to the School of Mines in 1922 to begin a 40-year academic career. It is interesting to note in the alumni records that his School of Mines’ degree was changed to Electrical Engineering in 1920, presumably because of plans to start a degree-granting, electrical engineering program. He submitted a thesis, *Water Resources of the Black Hills Region of South Dakota*, to the faculty of the South Dakota State School of Mines in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Electrical Engineer in April 1925. Ed is listed as the School of Mines’ first EE graduate (1918); the next EE degree was awarded in 1921. Ed was acting head of the Electrical Engineering department for a short time and taught special electronics courses during both world wars.

The first broadcasting station in South Dakota was the Wildcat (WCAT). Ed was the engineer in charge from the 1920s until the tower came down in 1950. It only operated a few hours each weekday (11 a.m. – 1 p.m.) and for football and basketball games. The antenna was a self-supporting tower about 200’ high located behind the O’Harra building.

Because Ed was always interested in EE graduates, once a year he wrote each one a letter. This added to his popularity with them. In 1960 the EE graduates presented him with a beautifully bound book of pictures and letters at a breakfast to honor him during the summer reunion.

Ed married Gladys Reed on June 19, 1920, and they were parents of four children: Edwin, Phyllis, Joan, and Peter. Upon Ed’s retirement in 1962, he and Gladys moved to Hill City to live in a house they had built with Peter’s help during summer breaks. Ed died on August 1, 1966 and Gladys died in May 1979.