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- THE NEWSLETTER -

AIChE One Day Symposium,

February 13, 1962

PLACE: The Sherman Hotel  
Randolph and Clark

Registration: Starting at  
11:30 a.m. Two con-  
current sessions starting  
at 1:30 P.M.

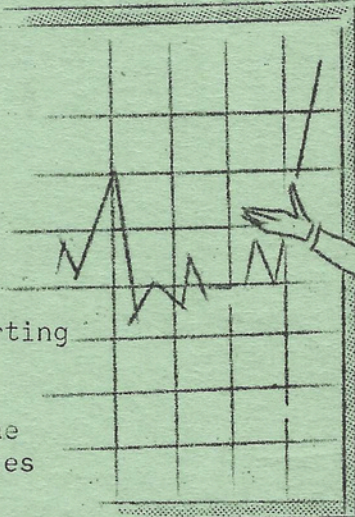
1. A Look to the Future
2. Systems Engineering in the  
Chemical Process Industries

Cost: Registration for technical  
sessions \$4.00  
(Students \$1.00)  
Banquet \$6.00 (Students \$4.00)

Dinner Speaker: Thomas H. Coulter,  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Chicago Association of  
Commerce and Industry

Subject: Industrial Development and Chicago's Future"

- ADDITIONAL DETAILS INSIDE -



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE MARCH MEETING.

Date: March 14, 1962

Place: Vogel's Restaurant, 1250 Indianapolis Boulevard, Whiting

Speaker: Dr. Hal Hart - American Oil Company

Subject: Computer Control of Processing Units.



The One-Day Symposium Committee wishes to thank the following companies for their contributions to help defray the cost of printing and mailing the program:

ABBOTT LABORATORIES: Abbott is a full line manufacturer of pharmaceuticals and fine chemicals, with annual sales in the range of 125 to 130 million dollars. It is an international company, having 21 plants around the world. The headquarters and main plant are in North Chicago. The company has 9,000 employees, 4,000 of which work at the North Chicago plant.

AMERICAN OIL COMPANY: The American Oil Company makes and markets a full line of petroleum products under the American or Amoco labels (Standard Oil in the Midwest). Headquarters are in Chicago; the main refinery and research facilities are in Whiting, Indiana. Together with associated members of the Standard Oil Company of Indiana family, (one of which Amoco Chemicals is also headquartered in Chicago) it accounts for about two billion dollars annual sales. The combined companies employ about 42,000 people.

THIS NEWSLETTER IS  
FOR YOU!

We depend on you for news, (report it even if you don't make it)...comments on the news and other items of general interest such as the following .....



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## JAPAN - LAND OF CONTRASTS



During my recent visit to Japan, I found a country that is fascinating and frustrating, sluggish and vital, efficient and inefficient. The tourists' world is fascinating because of the ancient lore and customs, the natural beauty of the country and the manner in which it is appreciated and emphasized, and the all-out effort on the part of the people to please the visitor. The business world, I found, is frustrating because of the amount of time consumed in making decisions, regardless of the importance or trivial nature of the matter under consideration. This hesitation in decision-making results in a sluggish pace in the preliminary phases of plant design, but the vitality of the Japanese becomes apparent when actual construction is underway. The people are very efficient in their use of building materials, and by U.S. standards, the plants are almost underdesigned. Their utilization and conservation of land, by necessity, is the epitome of efficiency, but the amount of manpower used in most facets of the Japanese economy is wasteful. The philosophy of the employer appears to be based on the tenet that if one man can do the job, two or three can do it better.

This excessive use of manpower results in high production costs despite the APPARENT low wage rates. Fringe benefits include a bonus consisting of 2 to 4 months' pay, hospitalization and welfare insurance, a retirement fund, and in some cases, housing provided by the company employing the individual. The combination of fringe benefits and low productivity results in process equipment costs comparable to, or in excess of, the costs of similar equipment in the United States.

At the current rate of inflation in Japan, it is my opinion that Japan's advances into the world market will be slowing down during the next three years, barring devaluation of the YEN, unless there is a drastic improvement in productivity. Under present government fiscal policies, upgrading of existing processes and construction of new automated processes is being temporarily discouraged in order to restore the balance of foreign currencies.

The Japanese are apparently slow to adopt new ideas, but once adopted, they are very quick to adapt these ideas to their requirements. This ability of adaptation may well be their salvation in the problem of increasing productivity. The influx of technical advisers from England, France, Germany and the U.S. can easily serve as the source of new ideas.

To some extent, government policy may restrict the development of new ideas. The engineer in Japan does not enjoy the near-professional status of the engineer in the U.S. The Japanese engineer is under close government control and must be individually licensed in order to work in each of the areas of refrigeration, air compression, handling of dangerous materials (i.e., acids and caustic soda, petroleum products, etc.) and in some of our "unit operations." No general engineering license is available.

Another factor which retards the development of new ideas is the practice in Japan of hiring an individual for his lifetime. It is virtually unheard of for a man to resign and seek employment elsewhere, so that tightly knit, noncommunicative engineering organizations result.

The short stay that I had in Japan was very interesting and challenging. One unique problem in plant design, which I encountered, is the Japanese belief that all rotating and reciprocating equipment has inherently low reliability. This belief is felt so strongly that their standard practice is to have stand-by equipment in the process so that production may continue while the malfunctioning equipment is being repaired. As a result, fixed investment can become excessively high because of the many duplications of equipment. The excessive down time experienced by the Japanese in the past appears to be due to the failure of the Japanese to stress the importance of durability and ease of repair in equipment design.

Safety practices, as compared to the U.S., are poor. Unguarded V-belt drives, poorly designed stairways, weak handrails, and sandblasting and spraying operations, wherein the operator is only protected by a thin gauze face mask, are typical and widespread.

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Despite the foregoing comments about overstaffing and the apparent low value of the employee as indicated by safety practices, Japan is now in the throes of a labor shortage. Activities in the area of recruiting labor has become so competitive, that the government has laid down ground rules for recruiting at the Secondary school and university levels.

Japan has made tremendous progress since the conclusion of World War II, as evidenced by the skyline of Tokyo which is dominated by the 1,092-foot Tokyo Tower. A tremendous amount of construction has been completed, and much more is in progress. We are all aware of the proficiency of the Japanese in the optical and electronic fields. All of this, despite the deficiencies that have been outlined above. In our future planning, we cannot, we must not, overlook the potential productive capacity of the 95,000,000 people that occupy the land of contrasts -- Japan.

--Bob Opila

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NOTICE: As passed at the October and November meeting, nominating procedures have now been amended to read as follows:

Paragraph 2, Section 3, Article V

At least two weeks before the January meeting, the Chairman shall appoint a Nominating Committee of three members of the Section in good standing. The chairman shall announce his appointment to the membership at the January meeting. With the call for the March meeting, the Secretary shall send to each member of the Section in good standing a nominating ballot on which the member may show his suggestion for one nominee for each office and for director-at-large.

Paragraph 3, Section 3, Article V

All such nominating ballots which are returned to the Secretary at the close of the March meeting shall be delivered to the Nominating Committee immediately. With these ballots as a guide, the Nominating Committee shall draw up a list of nominees of not less than one or more than three for each office and for the director-at-large.

Paragraph 4, Section 3, Article V

All nominees for officers and directors-at-large proposed by the Nominating Committee must be members of the organization in good

standing for at least two successive fiscal years including the year in which they are nominated. The list of nominees, along with appropriate background information, shall be presented to the members as part of the written notice of the annual meeting.

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WHAT: One-Day Symposium Sponsored by the Chicago Section,  
American Institute of Chemical Engineers

WHERE: Sherman Hotel, Randolph and Clark Street,  
Chicago, Illinois

WHEN: February 13, 1962  
Two concurrent sessions starting at 1:30 p.m.  
Registration starting at 11:30 a.m.  
Cocktails at 5:45 p.m.  
Banquet at 6:30 p.m.

<u>WHO:</u>	<u>SESSION 1</u>	<u>SESSION 2</u>
Subject-	A Look to the Future	Systems Engineering in the Chemical Process Industries
Chairman-	Dr. J. C. Forman Abbott Laboratories	Norman E. Rawson Pure Oil Company
Speakers-	Dr. Clarence R. Jung, Jr. Standard Oil Company "The Future: An Econo- mist's Viewpoint"	Prof. L. G. Mitten Northwestern University "Operations Research"
	Peter J. Marschall Abbott Laboratories "Manufacturing Facilities Overseas"	Charles Laspe T.R.W. Computers Company "Process Simulation With Digital Computers"

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Speake  
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Dinner

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Speakers-  
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1  
Prof. Albert H. Rubenstein  
Northwestern University  
"The Organization of  
Research and Development  
in the Chemical Industry"

2  
Paul E. Parisot  
Monsanto Chemical Co.  
"Process Simulation  
With Analog Com-  
puters"

Dean W. R. Marshall, Jr.  
University of Wisconsin  
"Current Trends in  
Engineering Education"

William G. Hunter  
University of  
Wisconsin  
"Evolutionary  
Operations"

Dinner Speaker- Thomas H. Coulter, Chief Executive Officer,  
Chicago Association of Commerce and Industry  
"Industrial Development and Chicago's Future"

COST: Registration for technical sessions - \$4.00  
Students- (\$1.00)  
Banquet - \$6.00 (Students - \$4.00)

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P E R S O N A L  
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AUSTIN COMPANY - Reporter: C. F. Sloan

Roy Lockhart is in Ohio starting up a plant making  
Rubber for golf ball covers.

AMERICAN OIL COMPANY - Reporter: M. F. Oxenreiter

R. J. Hengestebeck, Research Associate at the Whiting Laboratory is  
the author of "Distillation: Principles and Design Procedures",  
recently published by Reinhold.

At a meeting of the Whiting Science Club, Professor C. Northcote  
Parkinson spoke on "Parkinson's Law".

D. S. Gray presented the paper "Gasolines, Cars, and Carburetor  
Icing", at the Detroit meeting of SAE. Co-Authors are Lamont  
Eltinge, S. R. Oblad, and R. E. Kay.

AMERICAN OIL COMPANY....continued

Seymour Meyerson spoke on "Organic Ions in the Gas Phase" before the staff of the National Research Council, of Canada in Ottawa.

In a Seminar on Absorption Spectroscopy, sponsored by the Chicago Section of the Society of Applied Spectroscopy, J. B. Peri spoke on "Infrared Studies of Heterogeneous Catalysis."

Two staff members spoke before university groups: W. L. Bulkley, at the College of Pharmacy, University of Illinois, on "Flammability, Explosions and Detonations," and R. E. Higgins at Ohio State, on "Better Technical Writing."

J. F. Wygant spoke before the St. Louis Section of the American Ceramic Society on "Refractories in the Petroleum Industry."

BLOCKSON CHEMICAL COMPANY - Reporter: E. P. Lynch

Mr. E. P. Lynch has been transferred to the Sun-Olin Chemical Corporation at Claymont, Delaware.

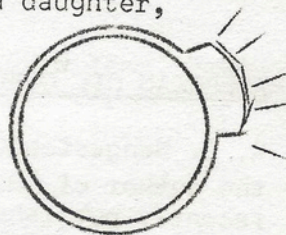
CORN PRODUCTS COMPANY (TECHNICAL DIVISION)-Reporter: D. Gaichas

Joe Battaglia has a little more help on his income tax return for 1962 than 1961. His wife, Kitty, gave birth to a daughter, Kimberly, on January 6, 1962.

Jerry Blickhahn made plans to leave the bachelor ranks. He presented Miss Estelle Ertman with an engagement ring over the holidays. An early summer wedding is planned.

Jack Donahue and Dick Thurston are working hard on the February Symposium Committee. They would be satisfied with the reward of a large turnout at the Symposium

Bob Opila, having returned from Japan, presided over the January meeting. His account of Japan was most interesting and revealing. Bob is almost back to his old weight by now, too.



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EIMCO CORPORATION - Reporter: Art Welch

Chuck Silverblatt left our balmy sub-zero weather last week for Mexico.

Undaunted Connie Cornell finally left for Finland where the temperature fell to  $-40^{\circ}$ .

ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY - Reporter: Dr. Octave Levenspiel

Members of the IIT Chemical Engineering Department participated in the National Meeting of the AIChE held in New York City, December 4-6, 1961. Dr. Ralph E. Peck, Professor and Director of the Department was a discussion leader on drying at a luncheon on December 6, 1961. Dr. Octave Levenspiel, Associate Professor, presented a paper at the Free Forum entitled "Inadequacies of Present Design Methods for Absorption with Simultaneous Chemical Reaction and a Proposed Solution."

Dr. Skelland's guppies just gave birth.

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY - Reporter: Professor G. G. Lamb

S. G. Bankoff attended the Symposium on Multiphase Dynamics sponsored by the Division of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry at the University of Delaware in Newark, December 28-29, 1961, and gave a paper entitled "Quenching Theory for Transition Boiling" by Bankoff and Mehra, which will appear in the first issue of Fundamentals Quarterly which will appear in February.

J. S. Dranoff will attend the 46th National Meeting of the AIChE in Los Angeles, February 5-7, 1962 to deliver a paper entitled "Ion Exchange Equilibrium in a Ternary System."

Stephen Whitaker will attend the same meeting to preside as co-chairman of the Symposium on "Fluid Mechanics in Chemical Reactor Design."

**MAKE YOUR RESERVATION NOW!!!**

Mail the attached reservation card or call: Bob Logsdon, IN 8-9470  
For Multiple Reservations...please indicate names of all parties.

REMEMBER: National Engineers' Week  
February 18-24, 1962

HELP PROMOTE IT: Economic growth through  
Professional Engineering

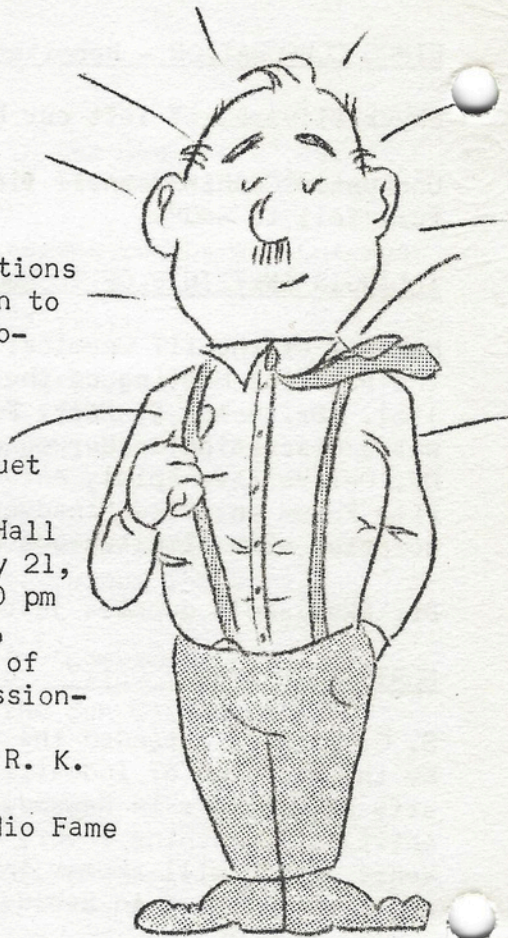
Emphasize the broad contributions  
of the engineering profession to  
America's economic and techno-  
logical strength.

PLAN TO ATTEND: Chicago's Highlight  
Chicago Engineers' Week Banquet  
WHERE.....McCormick Place,  
Lakefront Banquet Hall  
WHEN.....Wednesday, February 21,  
1962, 6:00 to 10:00 pm  
WHAT.....Top flight program,  
including Engineer of  
the Year and Profession-  
alism Awards.  
Guest Speaker: Rear Admiral R. K.  
James,..."Atomic Propulsion"  
M.C. Dan Sorokin of TV and Radio Fame  
COST.....\$8.75

Tickets on a First Come - First Served Basis  
Last Years Banquet was oversubscribed  
Each Society will be identified by a  
sign on each wall.

PLEASE MAKE PAYMENT TO: Chicago Engineers Week Committee  
c/o Chicago Chapter ISPE  
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(Return Envelopes were included in last month's newsletter)



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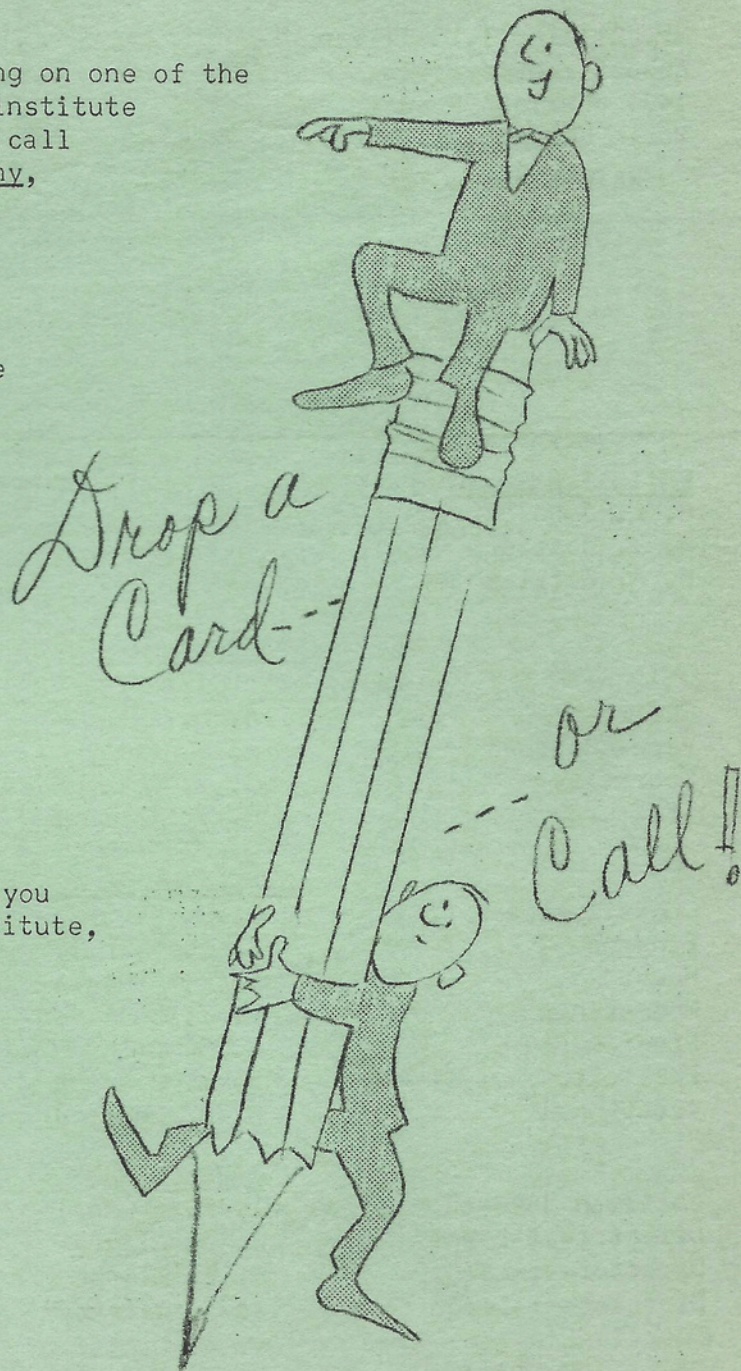
If you are interested in serving on one of the operating committees for this institute meeting, please drop a card or call W. J. Alford, % Pure Oil Company, Research Center, Crystal Lake, Illinois; telephone: 815-459-1600.

We need Section members who are interested in working on the following committees:  
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Institute Banquet  
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Luncheons  
Printing,  
Preprint Sales and  
Institute Membership  
Host Committee.

This is a good opportunity for you to serve your Section, the Institute, and your profession.

Please offer your services so this can be one of the best of Institute meetings.

W. J. Alford, Chairman  
General Arrangements  
Committee



Mr. William T. Sullivan  
Abbott Laboratories  
1400 Sheridan Road  
North Chicago, Illinois

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