

Immediate past president dies recently



Robert T. O'Connor

AOCS immediate past president Robert T. O'Connor died in November, 1973. Until his death he was chief of the Composition and Properties Laboratory of the Southern Regional Research Center, New Orleans, La. Mr. O'Connor was an active Society member and completed a term as president about one year ago.

He joined the Society in 1945 and the following year was appointed a member of the Spectroscopy Committee and later its chairman. He served as chairman of this committee and as a member of the older Color Committee until these committees were combined with the Gas Liquid Committee to form the Instrumental Techniques Committee in 1962. Mr. O'Connor was appointed chairman of the new committee and has been reappointed annually to this position.

Mr. O'Connor was elected president in 1972, having previously served the Society as a member of the Governing Board-at-Large for two terms, 1963 and 1967, and as national secretary in 1970. He was an associate editor for the *Journal*, first appointed in 1954.

He also has served the Society in several other committee appointments. He was a member of the Program Planning Committee since 1957 and the Uniform Methods Committee since 1962. He served as a member of the Meetings Planning Committee from 1964 to 1970 when he was appointed for a single term as chairman of this Committee. He has served terms as chairman of the Communications Committee, 1970; the Membership Committee, 1971; and the Society Improvement Committee, 1973. He has been a member of the Nomination and Elections Committee since 1970 and was chairman of this Committee.

Mr. O'Connor was Technical Program Chairman for the annual meetings of the Society in New Orleans, in 1957, 1959, and 1962; and general chairman in 1964, 1967, and 1970, serving in a major role in six conventions spanning 14 years. He was an AOCS delegate to the Inter-Color Council from 1947 until the Society withdrew from this organization in 1973. He was appointed an AOCS delegate to the Inter-Society Relations Committee in 1965 and has served as chairman of the delegation since 1969. He served a two-year term as chairman of this Committee during 1969 and 1970. He was the New Orleans Representative for the Society during the decade 1962 to 1972.

Mr. O'Connor's entire professional career has been as an

analytical chemist with the Agricultural Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, specializing in instrumental techniques of analytical chemistry. He joined the organization while a student at the George Washington University in Washington, D.C., in 1937.

He is author of about 200 technical papers, review articles, committee reports, and several chapters in reference texts and monographs. He received the Department's Superior Service Award in 1955 and its Distinguished Service Award in 1958.

He was active in the Assn. of Official Analytical Chemists and was the winner of its Harvey W. Wiley Award in Analytical Chemistry in 1967. He has also been very active with the American Society for Testing and Materials serving as a member of its Molecular Spectroscopy Committee since 1950 and as chairman of this Committee since 1964.

In 1971 he was made an Honorary Fellow of ASTM and received the Society's Certification of Merit. He has been an active leader in the Society's program to make infrared spectra of approximately 200,000 organic molecules available for "fingerprint identification by a rapid computerized technique." ■

Frederick Gayer dies in Detroit

Frederick H. Gayer, long time AOCS member, died in Detroit, Mich., on Oct. 5, 1973, after a long illness. He was 80 years old.

Mr. Gayer received a doctor's degree from the Technical University of Budapest, Hungary, in 1933. After immigrating to the U.S., he joined General Motors Research Laboratories where he undertook catalyst investigations. After moving to Chicago, Ill., in the late 30's, he worked extensively on paper mill byproducts and was granted several patents on tall oil refining. This led him to organize a consulting laboratory in Chicago Heights where he focused on drying oils, resins, coatings, and adhesives. Because of failing health he retired in 1971 and moved to Detroit.

He is survived by his wife, Florence, a daughter, Annmarie, of Chicago, and a son, Fredrick Elliott, of Detroit. ■

● Meetings. . .

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- Stazione Sperimentale Oli e Grassi, Via G. Colombo 79, 20133 Milano, Italy T 23 61 051.
- Sept. 8-12, 1974—Sixth International Congress of Essential Oils, San Francisco, Calif. Contact: Sixth International Congress of Essential Oils, 60 E. 42nd., New York, N.Y. 10017.
- Oct. 7-9, 1974—21st Canadian Spectroscopy Symposium, Ottawa, Can. Contact: J.L. Dalton, secretary, 21st Canadian Spectroscopy Symposium, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, Mines Branch, 555 Booth St., Ottawa, Ont., K1A 0G1, Can.
- Oct. 28-31, 1974—1974 Instrument Society of America International Conference, Sheraton Hotel, New York, N.Y. Contact: ISA/74 Conference, Instrument Society of America, 400 Stanwix St., Pittsburgh, Pa. 15222.
- Nov. 6-9, 1974—52nd Annual Meeting and 39th Paint Industries' Show of Federation of Societies for Paint Technology, Atlanta Civic Center, Atlanta, Ga. Contact: Federation of Societies for Paint Technology, 121 S. Broad St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19107. ■