

During 1957, the society expanded its membership categories to include junior memberships for students. Three people joined AOCs that year under this classification, open to matriculated students carrying at least six credit hours in a field leading to a career in fats and oils. The other existing categories were active, individual associate and corporation associate membership. Active membership, then as now, is open to anyone actually engaged in scientific or technological work relating to fats, oils, waxes, compounds or allied associated products with at least five years' academic training or its equivalent (two years of actual working experience equivalent to one year of academic training). Persons not qualified for active membership but engaged in the manufacture, distribution or sale of oils, fats, waxes, their constituents or compounds or allied associated products, or machinery, supplies, instruments or other equipment used by the industry are qualified to become individual associates, as are those interested in the development of the chemistry or technology of this industry. The corporate associate membership is open to corporations or firms engaged in the manufacture, distribution or sale of oils, fats, waxes or allied or associated products or machinery and supplies used by the industry. Active members can hold office and vote, whereas individual associate, corporation associate and junior members cannot.

In the late 1950s, efforts were renewed to recruit more members from academic institutions. Prompting this in part was the publication of the new *Journal of Lipid Research*. One member wrote to the membership committee to say, "I feel that the new journal would not have then formed if the sponsors had not been of the opinion that the Oil Chemists' journal is a 'trade' journal. This has arisen from the fact that there are compara-

tively few academic people in the Oil Chemists' Society and almost none in the governing and administrative offices."

It wasn't long before AOCs moved to fill this gap by launching a second journal, *Lipids*, aimed at biochemists. The first issue of *Lipids* was published in January 1966.

In 1972, the Governing Board announced additional steps to encourage members to recruit others. Their plan was to institute the President's Club and Honor Roll, which have been continued each year. The President's Club consists of members who recruit at least one new member for that year. Their names are published in *JAOCs* in a cumulative club roster for the year. The President's Honor Roll is open to members recruiting at least three new members in a given year.

AOCs now has more than 4,000 members. About two-thirds of the members are working in the United States, the others are in more than 70 nations around the globe. Overseas membership has grown at a more rapid rate since 1976 when AOCs began a series of World Conferences.

When the 75th annual meeting opens in Dallas later this year, more than 1,500 persons may be attending—equivalent to approximately one-third of the total membership. That possibly is an attendance that was never even dreamed of by nine cottonseed product analysts who met in Memphis' Jockey Club during the spring of 1909.

POSTSCRIPT—On Feb. 18, 1947, the Memphis Jockey Club, site of AOCs' birth, was torn down. According to a March 1947 *JAOCs* account, the Memphis landmark was erected in the 1880s when the Fairgrounds was a race track. In its basement was the club barroom where the founding group of chemists and analysts met in 1909.

When past presidents gather, it's time for . . .

"It seems to us that our society is especially rich in personal friendships. One has only to observe the warmth of the personal greetings as the members gather together from far and wide at New Orleans and Chicago, and the intimate groups that spontaneously exchange confidences and cast aside all care and restraint on the golf course or at the bowling alleys. It's a real society of genuine good fellows, without sham or pretense."

Alan Lee Porter, editor, *Oil & Soap*, January 1933

meets for dinner during each annual meeting, is a fraternal nonorganization whose warmth and fellowship are shrouded in a secrecy that is rarely pierced.

"The Freedom of Information Act does not apply to the past presidents' association," George Cavanagh (1969 AOCs President) sternly warns those who inquire about the group.

There are a few facts Cavanagh and other past presidents will confirm.

The association is purely social, is open to past presidents only, and has no officers. Spouses of

AOCs' Association of Past Presidents, which

past presidents are now welcomed also.

Felix Paquin, the society's first president, was the founder of the association. In 1944, at the 35th annual AOCS convention held in New Orleans, Paquin invited other past presidents to an informal reception at the Roosevelt Hotel (now the Fairmont). Attending, besides Paquin, were E. R. Barrow, G. Worthen Agee, Thomas C. Law, J. J. Vollertsen, R. H. Fash, W. R. Stryker, A. S. Richardson, N. C. Hamner, J. P. Harris, A. A. Robinson, E. C. Ainslie, M. L. Sheely, C. H. Cox, H. C. Dormitzer, H. S. Mitchell and Lamar Kishlar, as well as K. S. Markley, the newly elected president, and secretary-treasurer J.C.P. Helm. Participants, agreeing to hold an annual dinner for past presidents at each spring meeting, set up the following guidelines:

- the senior surviving past president attending, based on the year served, would preside at the dinner;
- the newly elected president would be invited to attend; and
- all conversation would be informal, with no press representatives admitted.

Markley, chosen secretary of this group, was asked to arrange the first annual past presidents' dinner. Due to a ban on conventions during the spring of 1945, the first dinner was not held until the 1946 meeting in New Orleans. On May 16, 1946, 18 past presidents, the incumbent and the president-elect gathered in the Gold Room of La Louisiane restaurant. Presiding was Paquin. After introductory remarks, Paquin relinquished the chair to Robert R. King, the incumbent, who in turn gave it to S. O. Sorenson, president-elect. Sorenson turned the chair over to Barrow, the fourth president, and it was occupied by each past president until the circle had been completed and the chair returned to Paquin.

Attending that first dinner were Paquin, Barrow, Agee, Law, Vollertsen, Fash, Stryker, Hamner, Harris, Robinson, Ainslie, Sheely, Cox, Dormitzer, Mitchell, Kishlar, Markley, W. G. McLeod, R. R. King and S. O. Sorenson. "Many are names which are still recognized in the industry today," Cavanagh points out.

The next three meetings were held at Arnaud's restaurant in New Orleans. With only men invited, attendance dwindled. The solution: to allow spouses as well. This precedent was set in 1958, when J. R. Mays Jr. and his wife, Kate, aided by co-hostess Evelyn Agee, invited the past presidents and their spouses to a buffet supper at the Mays' home. Thirty-three past presidents and their ladies attended.

According to Cavanagh, the men didn't get any "business" done that evening. Feeling guilty, they met again the following day to make transactions. No information is available as to what these "transactions" were.

At one point, past presidents discussed whether

to extend membership to non-presidents who had given outstanding service to the society, to have a purpose other than social, and to adopt bylaws and elect officers. The past presidents decided to maintain a social organization for past presidents, with no constitution or officers.

At the 1959 past presidents' dinner in Kolb's in New Orleans, part of the 50th anniversary meeting of the society, 24 of the 29 living presidents took part.

R. R. King, senior past president, joined the society in 1936 and became president in 1945 when he was 35 years old. He is the only present member who attended the first past presidents' dinner. At that 1946 dinner, King said, participants signed a guest book in order of their term of presidency.

According to King, Law was one of the dominating figures at the early dinners. "Tom Law was eloquence personified—not only with that Georgia accent but that Old South pride." King also recalls that some members used to sing "Prairie Flower" at the dinners—though he doesn't remember the song. "It was something that Ed Barrow and J. P. Harris and others used to do after a few drinks. They'd get up and sing and dance around," King said.

In 1969, the past presidents and their ladies ate at an exclusive men-only San Francisco Club. The spouses had to get off the elevator early and climb two flights of stairs to enter by a little-used doorway.

For the 1978 meeting in St. Louis, the society tried to get as many past presidents together as possible. The dinner was held at Mr. Sam's, a private dining room in the Chase Park Plaza Hotel. Attending were 16 past presidents, outgoing president T. H. Applewhite and incoming president David Firestone. "It was a very emotional meeting," King says, recalling that he was asked by Dick Baldwin (1961 president) to give the invocation. "I'd never prayed in public before. All I could think of was Karl Mattil saying he was a square. So I prayed, 'Lord, if Karl Mattil is a square, please send us some more squares.'"

However, simply serving one's term as AOCS president does not mean formal acceptance by the group. Past presidents are "inducted" into the association. According to Cavanagh, no one in recent years has been accepted immediately at the end of his term as president—although the spouses of past presidents seem to have more success.

How does "induction" work? This is one of those jealously guarded secrets. However, an account by the late Chuck Hoerr (1966 president) in a newsletter about the 25th annual past presidents' dinner held April 27, 1970, gives an idea of what can transpire. Hoerr wrote that after dessert, the group discussed "the matter of inducting George Cavanagh into membership. This subject evoked an unexpectedly lively and lengthy discus-

Inside AOCS

sion. It was a distinct shock to George to discover that suddenly he had no friends in the room. True, Doc Richardson tried several times to get in a word for George but, since everyone knows what a kindly good-natured character Doc is, he was overruled. Likewise, George tried several times to get the floor to defend himself, but he was simply ignored. . . .”

In effect, one might surmise that those attempting to be a part of this exclusive group get a thorough “roasting.” “That’s what it amounts to. No one has anything good to say about you,” Cavanagh concedes.

Hoerr’s newsletter continued: “Sure enough, Doc spoke kindly of George as a capable, level-headed fellow with sensible views on many subjects. I got the impression that Doc wasn’t referring particularly to George’s capabilities as President of the Society; what Doc really meant was that he had discovered George is a Republican.

“Then it was agreed we would defer to Doc’s judgment and allow George to speak. After profusely praising and shamelessly flattering each and every Past President individually and collectively, George said the magic words. He invited the entire group to his suite for cocktails the next evening prior to the annual banquet. Consequently, George was nominated, seconded, thirded . . . tented, eleventh and duly elected

unanimously to full membership in the group.”

Cavanagh says he doesn’t recall being so readily accepted.

According to King, in the earlier days a buddy system played a crucial role in developing members to become leaders in the society. Under this system, a promising AOCS member would be singled out by prominent men in the society to work his way from fourth vice president to president.

“If you didn’t stumble too many times during your term as fourth vice president, you had a chance to be third vice president, and on up,” Cavanagh explains. “It still happens, although the structure may have changed,” Cavanagh says, explaining, “People who make greater than normal contributions to the affairs of the society and to the profession are the ones proposed for officer positions in the society, to chair world conferences, to run for the governing board.”

While there have been no women elected as AOCS president, Cavanagh—who calls himself “one of the more liberal conservatives” in the society—believes it is possible. “I would say we have a number of eminently qualified women who have contributed significantly to the society and to the industry.”

But, back to the operation of the past presidents’ association.

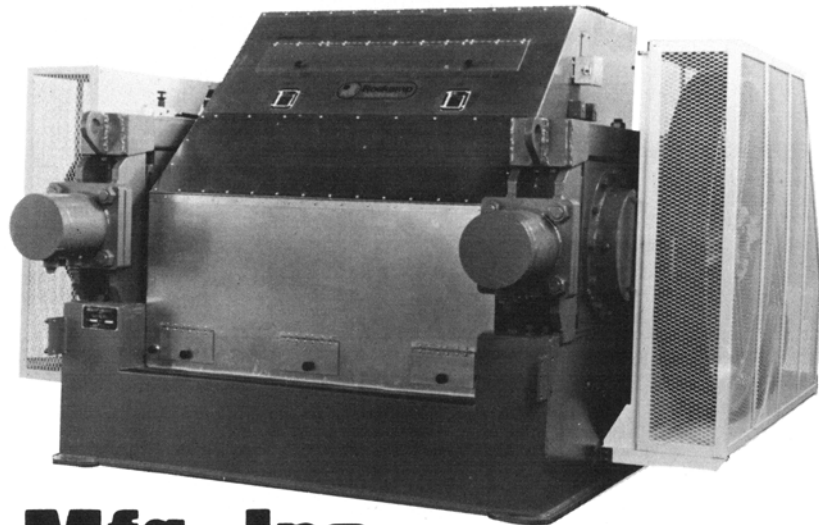
The only responsibilities seem to fall on one

For over 40 years Roskamp Mfg., Inc. has built a reputation for supplying dependable, durable roller mills to the grain processing industry.

By combining simplicity with strength and massiveness we have produced a flaking mill that requires a minimum of maintenance and operation attention.

Nothing reflects the quality of a machine as its actual track record. Compare us with the competition. Quality, dependability, price. Investigate the exclusive features of the Mark III.

MARK III



Roskamp Mfg., Inc.

2975 Airline Circle, Waterloo, IA 50703

(319) 232-0710

28 x 52 Flaking Mill

person, known variously as "the person in charge," "the secretary," or "presidente de los presidentes." Who is that person? Currently, it is Cavanagh.

"Chuck Hoerr told me years ago that how anyone ascends to be in charge of past presidents' meetings is a mystery," Cavanagh says. "Chuck performed this function and he asked me to temporarily take it over, which I did in 1975. If anyone is now in charge, I still am."

As such, Cavanagh sends out information to the past presidents concerning the annual dinner and coordinates the Christmas newsletter to which past presidents submit summaries of their activities for the past year.

The tradition of the past presidents' Christmas letter as it now exists was established by T. H. Hopper (1956 president). Others who have kept it going have included Bob Bates (1960 president), Chuck Hoerr and now Cavanagh. "It it were not for these yearly Past Presidents' letters, I would feel that I once *was* a member; but these letters

give me the feeling that I *am* a member," King wrote in the 1977 Christmas letter.

If you've never seen a copy of these Christmas letters, that's not surprising. They're only sent to past presidents—a practice that's in keeping with the association's aura of secrecy.

This brief lifting of the veil of secrecy could cost Cavanagh his hard-won formal acceptance, Cavanagh said. It is relatively safe, however, to say that Ginny Cavanagh's status is not in jeopardy. Past presidents are traditionally kinder to spouses than to each other. Actually, when a president completes his term, he still faces four additional years on the AOCS Governing Board. Which means, including one year as vice president, each person elected as president of AOCS spends at least six consecutive years of volunteer work at the society's highest level. That's a commitment that deserves the bantering camaraderie provided once a year by the past presidents' group.

AOCS charter members

The original 20 charter members of the Society of Cotton Products Analysts (later to become the American Oil Chemists' Society) were G. Worthen Agee, E. R. Barrow, H. B. Battle, G. G. Fox, R. B. Hulme, Edwin Lehman Johnson, W. J. Kallaher, Thomas C. Law, E. A. McDonald, W. H. Marquess, Landon C. Moore, Felix Paquin, R. W. Perry, J. B. Pratt, E. Scherubel, David Schwartz, F. N. Smalley, P. S. Tilson, R. C. Warren and David Wesson.

G. WORTHEN AGEE (1882-1955): Agee, a chemist, accepted a position in 1903 in Memphis with Felix Paquin who at that time was developing a consulting and analytical laboratory serving the cottonseed oil industry. In 1905, Paquin and Agee became partners. In 1909, Paquin left Memphis, selling his interest to Agee who continued the laboratory business in his own name. In 1917, E. R. Barrow, who had been a friendly competitor, joined Agee to form Barrow-Agee Laboratories Inc. Agee and Barrow drew up the first constitution and by-laws for the society. Agee served as secretary and treasurer until May 1912. He was elected vice president in 1913 and president in 1914. He was the first editor of the Chemists' Section, from 1917-1920, published in the *Cotton Oil Press*.

E. R. BARROW (1878-1956): Edward Robertson Barrow, a licensed engineer, designed and operated a cotton mill laboratory, then established the Barrow Laboratory in 1905 as an independent commercial laboratory serving cottonseed oil mills in the Memphis territory. In 1917, he and Agee consolidated laboratories. In

addition to helping draw up the society's first constitution and by-laws, Barrow served as the third president of the society and was a member of the first Uniform Methods Committee. He also chaired the first Refining Test Committee, appointed in 1916, and served on that committee for 30 years, until 1946. He served on the Soapstock and Journal committees, and was a member of the first Governing Committee.

H. B. BATTLE (1864-1929): Herbert B. Battle earned his doctorate degree in 1887. He first served as director of the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station for ten years. In 1903, he moved to Montgomery, Alabama, where three years later he founded the Battle Laboratory. He was president of that firm until his death. At the 1918 AOCS meeting, Battle, head of the Extraction Committee, made a report which became the basis for AOCS oil extraction methods for cottonseed, soybeans and peanuts. He served as AOCS president in 1923. One of his other outside activities was to found the Alabama Anthropological Society.

G. G. FOX (died 1949): G. G. Fox was vice president of Armour and Company's Refineries Division in Chicago, Illinois. His early professional career began in chemical laboratory work at Armour, which he joined in 1901, but soon expanded into refinery operations, sales and administration. He was the president of the society in 1915. In 1924, he resigned his membership in the society due to a job change.

R. B. HULME (died 1927): Robert B. Hulme, an oil chemist, began his career in the laboratories