

Fats & Oils News

AOCS at 75: time for changes?

(Retiring AOCS President Thomas H. Smouse delivered the following address to the membership at the opening plenary breakfast of the AOCS 75th anniversary meeting held a month ago in Dallas. In his talk, Dr. Smouse reviewed the Society's origins, present scientific and administrative concerns and steps being taken to assure a responsive and financially sound Society in future years.)

Ladies and Gentlemen, fellow members, and guests of the American Oil Chemists: it has been truly an honor for me to serve as your president this past year. It seems like just yesterday I was before you accepting this position. The poet, Virgil, was correct when he said these words "time is flying never to return." However, I had several things working in my favor to make the time pass so fast. First, I had Nick Pelick as vice-president and my right-hand man—he did a fantastic job. I had Joyce Beare-Rogers as secretary and Bill Tallent as treasurer. In addition to these officers, I had Tim Mounts, Bob Hastert and Arnold Gavin as Governing Board members-at-large. I thank each of them for their help and I thank the membership for giving me such excellent people with which to work. The second thing that helped make my job pleasant was the assistance of the past presidents. With the guidance of people like Applewhite, Allen, Baldwin, Cavanagh, Chang, Holman, Perkins, Zilch and others, how could a person not be able to guide and lead such a great society? It brings to mind something Samuel Clemmons once said when he returned to his hometown of Hannibal, Missouri. Mark Twain said when he was 16 that he thought his parents were stupid, but five years later when he was 21, he was amazed at how much his parents had learned in five short years. I think we can all learn from this statement and I appreciate the help of the past presidents. They sure learned a lot this past year!! The third thing in my favor was the capable staff at the AOCS headquarters. We have a group of 20 full-time staff members who are professionals, know their jobs and assist the officers and committees in every way possible. Last, I would like to acknowledge the help I received from you, the members, in your willingness to serve on the many technical and administrative committees. It truly has been a pleasant year and one that I will cherish the rest of my life.

In reviewing the past year, I have counted 22 of our members who have passed away. Most recently was Brian Walker who died of cancer on April 12, 1984. Brian was 47. He was very active in Society affairs, having served as an associate editor for *Lipids*, did the indexing for *Lipids* and was the general chairman for the 1982 AOCS meeting in Toronto. He will be best remembered for his work on the role of dietary fatty acids on membrane structure and the nutritional effects of the *trans* isomers of fatty acids. Brian will be missed by his wife Karen, their 3 children, Kim, Valerie, and Colin, and by his many friends here today. Longfellow wrote in a poem called "The Reaper and the Flowers"—"there is a Reaper whose name is Death, And, with his sickle keen, He reaps the bearded grain at a breath, And the flowers that grow between." Brian was certainly a flower that was reaped and I ask all of you to



give a moment of silence in remembrance of him and the other AOCS members who have passed away this past year.

Where have we come from in 75 years? We started in 1909 with 9 founding members. The initial steps to organize the AOCS were taken on May 20, 1909, at a social gathering of 9 chemists attending the annual meeting of the Interstate Cotton Seed Crushers' Association in Memphis, Tennessee. These 9 men were Wesson, Warren, Smalley, Perry, Paquin, Law, Johnson, Barrow and Agee. They elected Felix Paquin as president and agreed to meet one year later. By 1910, they had 20 charter members and chose the name Society of Cotton Products Analysts. By 1913, the new society had gained sufficient strength to sever its connections with the Interstate Cotton Seed Crushers' Association and soon became a leading influence in the cottonseed industry.

Today, we are the leading influence in fat and oil research around the world. Our membership has exceeded 4,000 members, of whom 29% are from outside the United States. Last year we set a goal to obtain 750 new members during the year. As of April 20, 1984, the Membership Acceptance Committee had approved 383 actives, 91 students, 51 associates and 16 corporates for a total of 541 new members since June 1983. If we obtain 200 new members at this meeting, which Jesse Covey tells me is possible, we will have met our goal.

Although our analysts continue as a very important sector of our membership, as they were in 1909, today our technical programs are based around 9 major topic areas. These include (1) Biology and Nutrition, (2) Chemicals and Fatty Acids, (3) Fats and Oils Production, (4) Soaps and Detergents, (5) Analytical Chemistry, (6) Government Regulations, (7) Safety Engineering, (8) Oilseed Proteins and (9) Edible Uses of Fats and Oils.

I thank the technical program committee of this meeting for working with the National Program and Planning Committee in attempting to have a balanced technical program with a maximum of original research. Surveys have shown that the technical program is the most important reason why our members attend national meetings. We

must strive to keep these programs excellent, and not fall into a social gathering of party-goers. We are No. 1 in fats and oils, but we still try harder. Anyone with a positive criticism on how we can make our technical programs better should feel free to give us your comments.

Our Society has continued to grow in its net worth. We have grown from \$150,000 net worth in 1967 to over \$600,000 in 1983. However, when these figures are adjusted to the U.S. Consumer Price Index, the total net worth has changed little during this 16-year period in terms of constant dollars. Much of our net worth is the headquarters building and its contents in Champaign. Although the building is leased until the year 2043, its real value is less each year to the Society. For this reason, the Governing Board initiated this past year a restricted sinking building fund that will grow from accumulated interest and future deposits so that the Society will be in a position to purchase a building when our lease expires. Since our building is on the campus of the University of Illinois, we have had several inquiries from the state of Illinois about a possible real estate sale. I have appointed a committee of 5 members who can travel easily to Champaign to investigate such inquiries to be sure they are in the best interest of our Society.

Since last year, we have used a financial adviser from the Illinois Company located in Chicago. The use of a financial adviser was deemed necessary after the by-laws were changed last year in Chicago to allow cash reserves to be placed in investments other than U.S. government insured monies. The Finance Investment Committee meets with our adviser before each Executive Committee meeting for a report on what has happened and what he recommends for the future. This advice is analyzed by the Finance Investment Committee before a recommendation is given to the Governing Board on what investments should be considered. I personally have been very pleased with the operation of this strategy and would like to thank Nick Pelick, chairman, and the members of the Finance Investment Committee.

Another action taken to ensure our financial soundness is setting an objective to build a reasonable increase in our reserve funds and making key committees aware of this objective. Committees that could produce potential reserves include education, publications, world conferences, annual meetings, monographs, advertising and methods development. These committee chairpersons will meet with the Finance Committee to encourage the development of marketable programs to help AOCS achieve its financial objectives.

Are we really American Oil Chemists? I ask this question and I am sure many of you have asked it likewise. We started off being affiliated with the Interstate Cotton Seed Crushers' Association. In 1910, we became the Society of Cotton Products Analysts. We published in such places as the *Cotton Oil Press* and the *Journal of Oil and Fat Industries* and then in 1932 we had the first issue of *Oil & Soap*, which later became the *JAOCs* in 1947.

In 1920 we were incorporated in the State of Louisiana as the AOCS. Over the years there have been proposals that we change our name—that the broad scope of subject

material in our technical programs and our diverse membership around the world made the designation of American Oil Chemists no longer applicable. We are international in scope and have many members who are not conducting research in oil chemistry. Recently, we have had the opportunity to become affiliated with a group of Canadian scientists and with a group of European scientists. However, the name American would not be appropriate. For this reason, I have appointed a committee, chaired by David Min, to study this, to collect suggestions of a possible name change and to report its findings to the Governing Board. We are a democratic society so if any of you has a suggestion, either pro or con, please submit it to David Min or one of the officers.

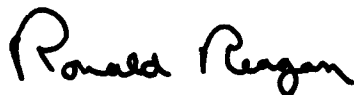
Along these same lines, we have many programs that provide service to our membership. However, as we create more programs, there is a possibility we may dilute our efforts in what the membership really needs. This past year, I have appointed a Program Evaluation Committee chaired by Ed Perkins to study each program to determine if it is necessary, does the membership want it, does each lose money for the Society, and finally, would we be a stronger society if we concentrated our efforts in new directions. For example, our Smalley Committee had expenses of \$26,675 in 1983 while our Referee Chemists expenditures were only \$530. Both of these programs are important to the Society and its members. But should we "short-change" one in neglecting a program that is so important to the exchange of commodities among our industries both within United States and around the world? Many of our members in universities and government laboratories were upset several years ago when we stopped publishing in *JAOCs* the abstracts for the national meeting papers. Since then, we have gone back to publishing the abstracts but in 1983 the cost per page of printing *JAOCs* was \$108.29 and there were 57 pages of abstracts printed in the April 1984 issue for this meeting. That amounts to a cost of \$6,172.53 that must be absorbed by other programs. It is situations such as these that we must continue to evaluate because our membership dues pay only one-fifth of what it takes to operate this society. I think you will agree with me that the \$50 membership fee is well worth the money if one considers the quality and value of just the journal alone.

I have mentioned where we were, I have discussed where we are, but what about where are we going? None of us has a crystal ball to see the future, but with the tremendous changes in energy conservation, the development of biotechnology, the production of fat-like substances that have no calories, the use of super critical solvents for oil extraction, the great strides made in analytical chemistry and the emphasis on dietary fats and oils, I see a great future for our society.

I felt it would be appropriate to have the President of the United States address you this morning so I invited him to make a keynote address. On March 6, 1984, I received a letter from Frederick Ryan, the Director of Presidential Appointments and Scheduling informing me that it was impossible for President Reagan to be with us today. Earlier this month I received a letter from Ronald Reagan that I would like to read to you:

Fats & Oils News

I am pleased to congratulate the American Oil Chemists' Society for seventy-five years of service to the American economy and to consumers everywhere. . . . Nancy joins me in wishing you a very happy Diamond Anniversary and a most successful meeting.



(Signed) Ronald Reagan

In conclusion, I would like to read some lines that the German author Thomas Mann wrote in 1903—"Time has no divisions to mark its passage, there is never a thunderstorm or blare of trumpets to announce the beginning of a new month or year, even when a new century begins it is only we mortals who ring bells and fire off pistols." Have a good time here in Dallas celebrating our Diamond Jubilee, ring some bells and enjoy yourselves.

T. H. Smouse

TABLE 1

U.S. Soybean Crush—Fourth Quarter 1983

	Total capacity (thousand bushels)	Total crush	Percentage of capacity	Oil produced (thousand lbs)	Oil yield	Meal produced (thousand tons)	Meal yield
October	128,144	95,744	74.7	1,072,048	11.20	2,267	47.36
November	124,010	86,185	69.5	959,255	11.13	2,020	46.88
December	128,144	84,491	69.8	990,757	11.07	2,112	47.19
Total for quarter		271,420	71.4	3,022,060	11.13	6,399	47.10

Oil yield increases

Soybean crush in the United States during the fourth quarter of 1983 (Table 1) was up about 10% over the third quarter, but significantly below the fourth quarter of 1982 when more than 317 million bushels of soybeans were crushed domestically.

Oil yield for the 1983 fourth quarter crush averaged 11.13 pounds per bushel, above the 10.69 pounds per bushel recorded during the same quarter the previous year. Meal yield, at 47.1 pounds per bushel, was below the same quarter the previous year (47.65 pounds per bushel).

U.S. crushing facilities operated at 71.4% capacity during the fourth quarter, compared with 66.92% capacity the previous quarter and 84.5% capacity the same quarter a year ago.

Cargill to expand

Cargill has announced plans to spend approximately \$15 million to construct a soybean oil refinery adjacent to its soybean crushing facility in Sioux City, Iowa. The refinery, which is expected to employ about 25 people after its completion in 1985, will produce hydrogenated edible oil.

Oil produced will be marketed to Midwest and West Coast food processors for use in margarine, bakery products, shortening and snack foods. The facility will be equipped to handle both rail and truck shipments of bulk edible oils.

The refinery will use the crude soybean oil produced at Cargill's Sioux City crushing plant, which annually processes approximately 16 million bushels of soybeans grown by area farmers. The facility will be able to refine other

edible oils, such as corn and sunflower.

This will be Cargill's seventh U.S. vegetable oil refinery and its fourth facility to produce hydrogenated vegetable oils.



Linfield to retire

Warner M. Linfield, an AOCS member since 1956, is retiring June 29, 1984, as research leader at the USDA Eastern Regional Research Center (ERRC) in Philadelphia.

Linfield has been an associate editor of *JAOCs* since 1973. He has also been a member of the Surfactants and Detergent Steering Committee and was a speaker at the World Conference on Soaps and Detergents (1977) and World Conference on Oleochemicals (1983). He has authored or coauthored more than 100 scientific papers, patents and book chapters. He was editor for the reference text *Anionic Surfactants*.

Before joining the ERRC staff in 1971, Linfield was manager of organic research at the IIT Research Institute, Chicago, and previously had been director of research for Armour Grocery Products Division.

He and his wife plan to move to the Dallas area where he expects to do some consulting in the oleochemicals and surfactants fields.



AOCS member **John B. LaFontaine** has been appointed executive vice president and general manager of edible oils for the Industrial Products Group, Stokely-Van Camp Inc. In his new position, he will manage the edible oil sales departments in addition to his management of edible oil manufacturing, engineering, purchasing and distribution. LaFontaine joined the company in December 1972 and served most recently as executive vice president of operations.

News briefs

John F. White has been appointed vice president of commercial development for CasChem Inc., responsible for new technology and assisting in extending CasChem's product line . . . **John R. Ryan** has been elected president of National Wax Company, a subsidiary of Eschem Inc. He will succeed **Joseph F. Samwebber**, who is scheduled to retire Aug. 3, 1984. . . . **Judi Adams**, a familiar face at recent AOCS annual meetings as the spokeswoman for the National Sunflower Association, has left her post as a marketing consultant to NSA and has organized a consulting firm to provide marketing, communications and dietary services. She also is co-owner of a new computer service company. . . . **R. James Puhl** has joined the staff of Chemical and BioMedical Sciences Division, Hazleton Laboratories America Inc. in Madison, Wisconsin. Dr. Puhl will supervise Hazleton's Metabolism Chemistry Department and assume responsibility for the performance of metabolic and pharmacokinetic studies required for registration of pharmaceutical, veterinary and agrichemical products. . . . **Creed C.**

Greer has been elected vice president of manufacturing for Arizona Chemical Company and **Robert W. Sombathy** has been appointed plant manager at the firm's Panama City, Florida, facility. . . . **Emery Industries**, a division of National Distillers and Chemical Corporation, has completed a \$54 million expansion of its Cincinnati fatty acid facilities. Construction began in February 1981. The facility includes a new fatty acid still and continuous hydrogenation unit, the first of its type in the U.S. . . . **Laporte Industries** was to begin work this spring in Malaysia on the first stage of an activated earth production unit based on Laporte technology. When completed, the facility will have an annual capacity of 50,000 metric tons of activated earths. Meanwhile, Laporte Australia (Holdings) Ltd. has completed the purchase of Abel Lemon & Co., an Australian chemical distribution business, from the Adelaide Steamship Company Ltd.

Obituary

RALPH A. MARMOR

AOCS has been informed of the death of **Ralph A. Marmor** on Feb. 2, 1984. He had been a member of the Society since 1939. Mr. Marmor served on the local committee for AOCS meetings in Minneapolis, including service as hotel chairman for the 1963 fall meeting there. His wife, Marie, was chairman of the ladies' program committee for that meeting.

Mr. Marmor did undergraduate work at Texas A&M University, then worked for many years for A. E. Staley Mfg. Co. before joining the Pillsbury Co. in Minneapolis. He retired from Pillsbury in the fall of 1972. In recent years, he and his wife lived in Pearce, Arizona. He recently had donated a set of AOCS journals dating back to the mid-1920s to Texas A&M.

World Conference Proceedings

PROCEEDINGS OF PAST CONFERENCES STILL AVAILABLE:

World Conference on **Soya Processing and Utilization**, Acapulco, Mexico, November 9-14, 1980 (March 1981 Journal of the American Oil Chemists' Society). \$15 for members, \$20 for nonmembers.

World Conference on **Vegetable Food Proteins**, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, October 29-November 3, 1978 (March 1979 Journal of the American Oil Chemists' Society). \$12.50 for single copies, \$9 for 10 or more copies to the same address.

World Conference on **Soaps and Detergents**, Montreux, Switzerland, October 9-15, 1977 (January 1978 Journal of the American Oil Chemists' Society). \$10 for members, \$14 for nonmembers.

World Conference on **Oilseed and Vegetable Oil Processing Technology**, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, March 1-5, 1976 (June 1976 Journal of the American Oil Chemists' Society). \$15 for single copies, \$10 for 5 or more copies to the same address.

World **Soy Protein** Conference, Munich, Germany, November 11-14, 1973 (January 1974 Journal of the American Oil Chemists' Society). \$10 for members, \$14 for nonmembers.

Order from American Oil Chemists' Society, 508 S. Sixth St., Champaign, IL 61820, USA