

Meet Your Past President . . .

(EDITOR'S NOTE: With this issue is completed a series of sketches on past presidents, which was begun in *Oil & Soap* in March, 1946, to acquaint new members with leaders of the Society. The sketches will now be collected and bound together in one volume with the preceding series on Society committees. Copies will be offered for sale in the near future.)

ROBERT R. KING, 1945

BECOMING president in 1945 at the age of 35, Robert R. King was one of the youngest officers in the history of the American Oil Chemists' Society, and as first vice president and membership chairman during the preceding year he had been instrumental, with the aid of his Membership Committee, in breaking



R. R. KING

all previous membership records by a wide margin and bringing the Society to a membership of more than 1,000. A member of the Society for only nine years (since 1936), he had received prompt recognition of his ability and by 1943 was serving on the Refining, the Nominating, and the Smalley Foundation Committees. In the years since his presidency he has served on the Governing Board with three other past presidents in a five-year term, and in 1947 he was named to membership on the Referee Examining Board and chairmanship of the all-important Uniform Methods Committee, succeeding J. J. Vollertsen, who had headed it for many years.

Paralleling Mr. King's activity has been the accomplishment of the Society itself for, as Mr. King pointed out in his presidential address in May, 1946, the membership in the past four years had doubled and in the past 12 years had quadrupled, reaching a total of 1,200; the Society had continued its close affiliation with the National Cottonseed Products Association and had established a similarly close relationship with the National Soybean Processors' Association, serving the N.S.P.A. exclusively with analytical methods; the scope of the analytical method development had been enlarged to include soybean products of all kinds, vitamin oils, and application of spectroscopy. Beyond these factors Mr. King pointed out that the Society is unique as a technical group in that the fraternal association has been paramount, thereby bringing about an immeasurable amount of unselfish service to the Society. He expressed the hope that the Society would not become too large and let growth tend to inhibit the fraternal spirit.

WHILE an active member of the Society, Mr. King has not been idle in his own professional realm. Early in 1936 he accepted a position as chief chemist with the Interstate Cotton Oil Refining Company at Sherman, Tex., which is now known as Mrs. Tucker's Foods inc., and was subsequently promoted

to plant superintendent, general superintendent, and plant manager. In 1944 he was also made technical director of the company and of its wholly owned subsidiary, Meadolake Foods inc. Since then he has become a member of the board of directors of Mrs. Tucker's Foods inc. When his company purchased the Southland Cotton Oil Company in 1946, he became technical director of that subsidiary, which comprises eight oil mills in Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana. He organized the technical division of the parent company in an expansion program.

During World War II Mr. King volunteered in the Army Specialist Corps and was offered a commission in Chemical Warfare Service, but because he was plant manager of a food company largely engaged in war contracts, the office procurement division of the Eighth Service Command asked that he stay in his industrial position.

Although Mr. King is now in food industries, his college jobs were in four different cement plants in Iowa and Texas, on the basis of which he published several papers. After being graduated from Iowa State College in 1931 with a B.S. degree in chemical engineering, he went to work for Procter and Gamble Company in Cincinnati, as a process development engineer in the chemical division. Most of this time was spent in plant development of edible fat products, specializing on hydrogenation, plasticization, formulation, and quality control. Since locating in Texas, he has become a registered professional engineer under Texas licensing.

And although Mr. King now talks with a Texas drawl, he is really a product of Iowa, having been born in Fort Dodge on June 9, 1909, and educated in Des Moines, where in 1926 he was graduated from West Des Moines high school. Before he enrolled at Iowa State, he attended Des Moines University for two years, attaining the highest grade in the university both years. Hand in hand with high scholastic achievement has gone an interest and proficiency in sports. He was on the basketball and track teams in both high school and college. He played one year of professional basketball after leaving college and was state champion broad jumper of Iowa in 1931. In addition, King played several years of tournament tennis. His present hobby is golf, on account of which he has won numerous awards at the annual Society tournaments in connection with the spring meetings.

Further accent on youth includes reference to his daughter, Virginia, aged four years, and his son, Billy, two years old. His wife, to whom he was married in 1937, is a Texas girl, the former Lucy Hamner. Professional affiliations include membership in the American Chemical Society, National Association of Professional Engineers, Institute of Food Technologists, American Institute of Chemical Engineers, and American Soybean Association. He is also a member of Delta Upsilon, social fraternity.

Preceding presidents have been as follows: Felix Paquin, pro tem in 1909 and elected in 1910; David Wesson, E. R. Barrow, F. N. Smalley, G. W. Agee, G. G. Fox, T. C. Law, Archibald Campbell, P. S. Tilson, Rex W. Perry, F. B. Porter, C. B. Cluff, L. M. Tolman, H. B. Battle, H. J. Morrison, J. J. Vollertsen, E. H. Fash, H. P. Trevithick, A. W. Putland, W. R. Stryker, W. H. Irwin, A. S. Richardson, N. C. Hamner, J. P. Harris, W. D. Hutchins, A. A. Robinson, E. C. Ainslie, M. L. Sheely, C. H. Cox, H. C. Dormitzer, H. A. Schuette, W. G. McLeod, H. S. Mitchell, L. M. Kishlar, and K. S. Markley.