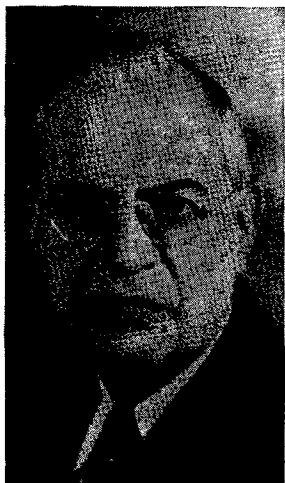


Meet Your Past President . . .

J. J. VOLLERTSEN, 1925

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is another in the series of sketches on past presidents which *Oil & Soap* inaugurated a year ago with the March, 1946, issue to acquaint new members with past leaders. Previous presidents were Felix Paquin, pro tem in 1909, elected in 1910; David Wesson, E. R. Barrow, F. N. Smalley, G. W. Agee, G. G. Fox, T. C. Law, Archibald Campbell, F. S. Tilson, E. W. Perry, F. B. Porter, C. B. Cluff, L. M. Tolman, H. B. Battle, and H. J. Morrison.)

THE 16th president of the American Oil Chemists' Society, J. J. Vollertsen, joined the organization in 1916 and immediately became active in the committee work. His first assignment was as chairman of the Bleaching Methods Committee in 1918, after which he served on the Committee on Soap Stock Analysis and Corn Oil Methods. He has been a member of the Uniform Methods Committee since 1920 and its chairman continuously since 1928. Similarly he has been chairman of the Smalley Foundation Committee since 1936. Mr. Vollertsen has also served on the Referee Board, Fat Analysis, and Moisture Committees. In addition, he has been a member of the Journal Committee since 1932. Back in 1920 he also served as editor of the Journal for one month, taking his turn at the request of G. Worthen Agee, who was editor-in-chief.



J. J. VOLLERTSEN

During his presidency the Society published the Methods in a Lefax binder for the first time. Prior to this the Methods had been published as part of the proceedings of the National Cotton Products Association. During the same year the Bureau of Standards agreed to standardize some of the Lovibond glasses since it had been found that these did not exactly check with each other. A standardized set was then lent to various members of the Society for the purpose of checking their own glasses against it. Large arrangements were made whereby any member could have glasses checked by the Electrical Testing Laboratory of New York City.

A report of Mr. Vollertsen's professional career was published in the January, 1947, issue of the Journal following his retirement in December from his position as chief of the chemical research development department of Armour and Company, Chicago. His life is unique in one respect compared to that of his predecessors in office, being dedicated to one city, Chicago. Mr. Vollertsen was born and brought up in Chicago, was graduated from the University of Chicago in 1903, and then was a chemist in one Chicago firm after another.

His first position was with Swift and Company, next with the Kennicott Water Softener Company, which specialized in the chemical treatment of boiler feed waters by means of patented continuous water softeners. Then he spent a short time with a laboratory supply house, which he left in 1907 to enter the

employ of Morris and Company. In 1910 he was put in charge of its analytical laboratory, where it might be stated he remained because Morris was purchased by Armour and Company in 1923.

About 1912 his firm became interested in the hydrogenation of oils, and he was given the assignment of working out a satisfactory process and building a plant. Since that time he has been chiefly interested in the fat and oil field although he has given much time to other packing house problems.

Mr. Vollertsen was a member of Alpha Sigma Phi and Phi Beta Kappa at the university and since then has become a member also of the following: American Chemical Society (1911), American Leather Chemists' Society, the American Society of Bacteriologists, the Institute of Food Technologists (charter member), the Society of Chemical Industry, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Society for Testing Materials, and the American Society of Bakery Engineers.

In 1908 Mr. Vollertsen was married to Adra H. Ellam, and they have a daughter Beth and a son John E., also two grandchildren.

R. H. FASH, 1926

THE outstanding event in the term of the next president of the Society, R. H. Fash of the Fort Worth Laboratories, Fort Worth, Tex., was the offer of three prizes for the three best manuscripts for publication. These were to be cash awards of \$150, \$100, and \$50 and were given the name of Chevreul prizes by a committee headed by David Wesson. Unfortunately the names of the winners cannot be announced now for presumably they were published in the May, 1927, issue of the Journal of Oil and Fat Industries, which is missing from the office files.

Feature articles with photographs were numerous in the journal, among the most interesting of which was one on the Palestine Oil Industry Shemen, Haifa, in the December, 1926, issue. Color standards for tallow and grease chemists were discussed in this period of the Society's development, also the determination of the detergency of soap products through a newly appointed subcommittee headed by L. F. Hoyt. In the December issue the format was changed from one column to two columns and the body type modified. By April members were being urged to attend the spring meeting, with a special railroad rate of fare and a half as inducement.

Mr. Fash has served on a number of Society committees, including Refining, Lint Analysis on Cottonseed, Petroleum Ether, and Membership. He is vice president of the Fort Worth Laboratories.

Peter Colefax, executive vice president, has been elected president of AMERICAN POTASH AND CHEMICAL CORPORATION, Los Angeles, succeeding Frederick Vieweg, who remained on the board of directors until his death on March 3, 1947. Mr. Vieweg had been with the company since 1919, joining its predecessor, the American Trona Corporation, and president since 1945.

A brochure on Pittchlor for machine dish washing, sanitation, deodorization, and so on has been issued by the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company, Pittsburgh. It is listed as Form A-706.