

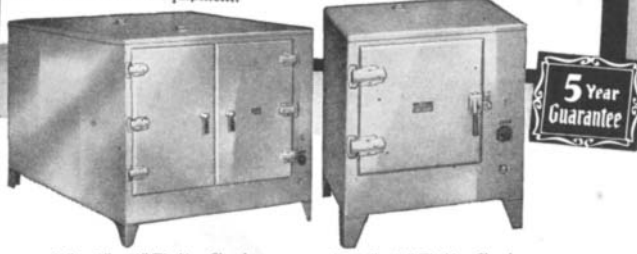


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Meet Your Past President . . .

WILLIAM H. IRWIN, 1930

(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, P. S. Tilson, Rex W. Perry, F. B. Porter, C. B. Cluff, L. M. Tolman, H. B. Battle, H. J. Morrison, J. J. Vollertsen, R. H. Fash, H. P. Trevithick, A. W. Putland, and W. E. Stryker.)

WITH the advent of the next Chicago president, the American Oil Chemists' Society held its first Chicago fall meeting on November 13 and 14, 1930, at the Congress hotel with William H. Irwin presiding. This meeting followed three in New York City, beginning with the 1927 convention arranged by Harry P. Trevithick as the first in the north. Attendance rose to 125, and in addition to a technical program of 15 papers there were such diversions as visits to manufacturing plants, museums, and other points of interest as well as a bowling tournament at the Stevens hotel arranged by John P. Harris.



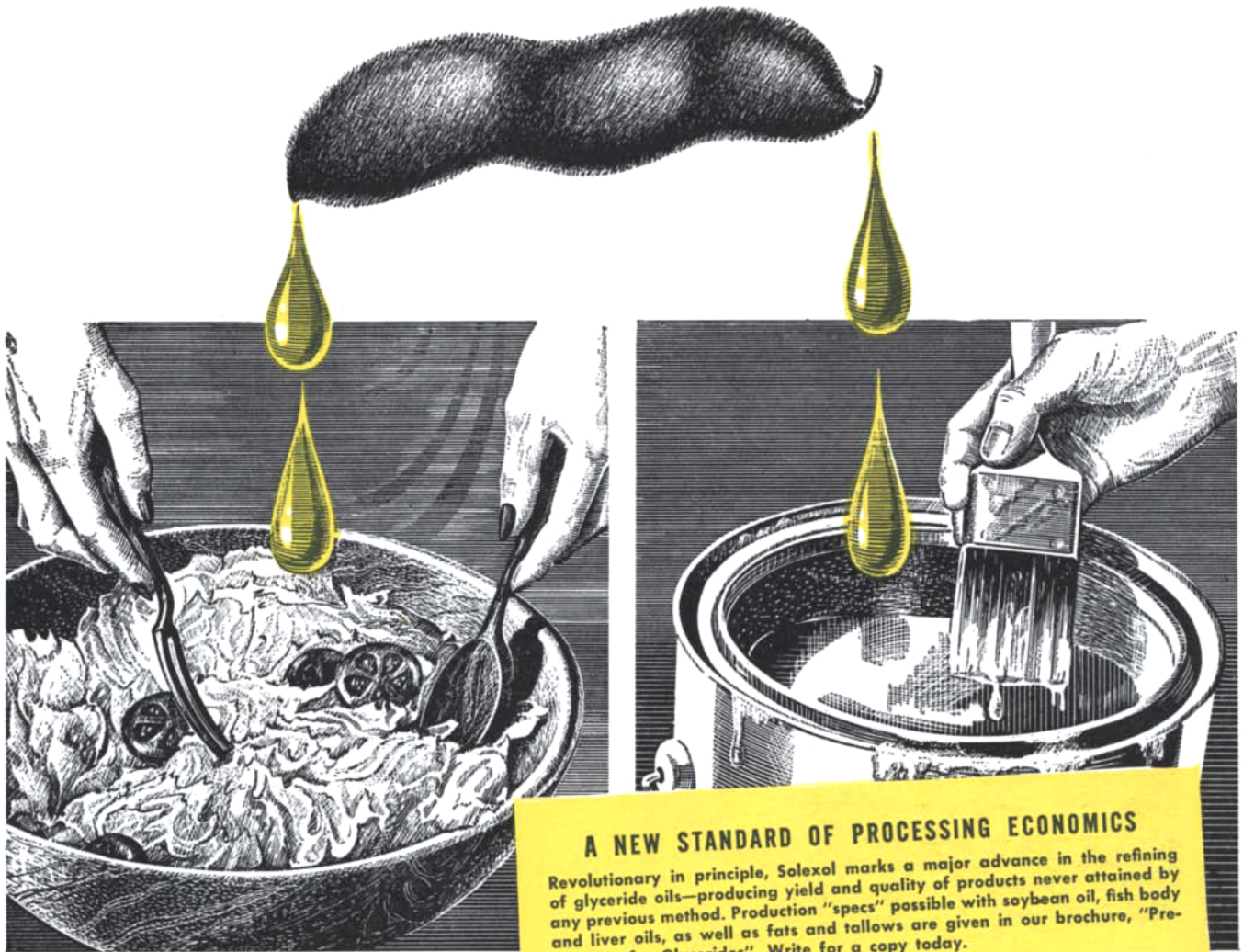
WILLIAM H. IRWIN

Exhibitors at this first fall meeting in Chicago were as follows: E. H. Sheldon and Company, Muskegon, Mich.; Skelly Oil Company, El Dorado, Kan.; Laboratory Construction Company, Kansas City, Mo.; Merck and Company, Rahway, N. J.; and such Chicago firms as Rascher and Betzold, E. H. Sargent and Company, Central Scientific Company, and A. Daigger and Company.

Mr. Irwin had been an early member of the Society and was active in its work, serving on such committees as Revision of Methods, Sulfonated Oil, and Stability. He was chairman of the Fat Analysis Committee, which was a joint committee with the American Chemical Society. His best known service to the Society, however, lay in his work with the journal. With the August 1932 issue of Oil & Soap his name was first carried as chairman of the Journal Committee, and with the March 1935 issue his name appeared also as managing editor. He retained both positions until his death on June 12, 1937. He was also chairman of the Chicago fall meeting for several years.

On the professional side Mr. Irwin's experience had been entirely with Swift and Company, after his graduation from the University of Kansas in 1899, beginning with the Kansas City plant, moving to Chicago and then to South St. Joseph, where he was in charge of the chemical laboratory until 1912. Then he was transferred to the Chicago laboratory, first director of analytical work, then assistant chief chemist.

Other technical work included membership in the American Chemical Society and the Chemists' Committee of the National Cotton Products Association.



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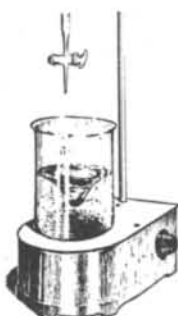
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A. S. RICHARDSON, 1931

THE 22nd president of the American Oil Chemists' Society was A. S. Richardson of Procter and Gamble Company, Cincinnati, Ohio, and accomplishments of his administration may be recounted in excerpts from his address at the 23rd annual meeting in New Orleans at the Jung hotel on May 12-13, 1932:

"There has been some loss of membership, about the number that might be expected in view of business conditions. The activity of our technical committee has fallen somewhat below average, about as much as is natural in view of the mental strain and physical disturbances characteristic of the times. We had to draw upon our surplus to complete the 1931 volume of Oil and Fat Industries. There was default of interest on one of our investments. In spite of these losses we are one of those fortunate societies having left a surplus for future emergencies. . . .



A. S. RICHARDSON

"A very successful fall meeting was held in Chicago, October 29 and 30. . . . The registered attendance was 137; exclusive of wives, it was 119, more than one-third of our entire membership. The industrial exhibits would have done credit to a meeting many times as large. . . . The outstanding event of the Society's year was the discontinuance of Oil and Fat Industries and the beginning of Oil & Soap. The name of the new journal gives increased recognition to our Soap Section, without compromising the more basic claim of oils and fats to our first consideration. . . .

"The focal point of our interest shifts from year to year. At times we pay most attention to alkali refining of oils; at another time we are most concerned with analysis of cottonseed; some other year we may concentrate on a problem of sampling. This is a healthy condition, but there is one committee that should be more constantly in our minds, namely, the Fat Analysis Committee. . . . The American Oil Chemists' Society should become the recognized leader in attacking problems relating to the analysis and the evaluation of all oils and fats of primary interest for use in soap or in edible products."

Dr. Richardson, who now is associate director of the Chemical division of his company, served on the Governing Board from 1930 to 1936 and has been chairman of the Referee Examining Board since 1931 and a member of the Editorial Advisory Board since 1932.

N. C. HAMNER, 1932

HAVING been elected in the midst of the great depression, the incoming 1932 president of the American Oil Chemists' Society, N. C. Hamner, was greeted with an avalanche of busted banks, declining membership, and all the petty annoyances of the period. The newly reorganized journal was shaky and