

Fiftieth Anniversary of A.O.C.S.

NEW ORLEANS is glad and proud to welcome the 50th Annual Meeting of the American Oil Chemists' Society. It is fitting that this meeting should be held in New Orleans, where so many of the annual meetings have been held. These 50 years have seen such close cooperation between individuals that the "success curve" of our society is out of proportion to this elapsed time. It is our purpose to give a brief outline of these accomplishments.

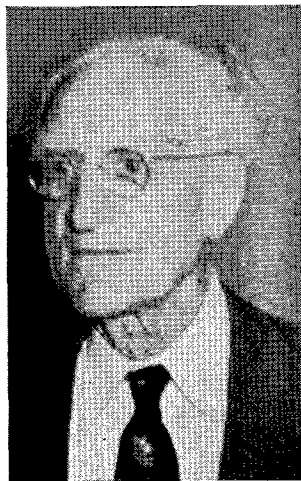
The fact that the A.O.C.S. is one of the foremost scientific organizations in the world was not brought about by chance, but by men. It is our intention at the Fiftieth Anniversary milestone to honor the men who were instrumental in the step-by-step progress.

It was at the meeting of the Interstate Cotton Seed Crushers' Association in Memphis on May 10, 1909, that the present A.O.C.S. was conceived. The founding fathers were G. Worthen Agee, Edward R. Barrow, Edwin L. Johnson, Thomas C. Law, Felix Paquin, R. W. Perry, Frank N. Smalley, R. C. Warren, and David Wesson. Six of these nine men became president of the Society and subsequently with others held various important committee chairmanships. The guiding spirits during this formative period were Barrow and Smalley. It was Agee who drew up the first constitution and by-laws of the society of Cotton Products Analysts—later changed to The American Oil Chemists' Society—in May 1910 at Little Rock, Ark.

The Governing Board appointed Agee editor of the Society's first official publication, the Chemists' Section of the Cotton Oil Press, and he continued in that position until March 1920. This very modest beginning was the forerunner of Oil & Soap and the present Journal of the American Oil Chemists' Society.

One of the monumental tasks performed by individuals was done under the direction of C. B. Cluff, *i.e.*, the Refining Committee. This committee pre-dates the foundation of our Society. Started in 1903 by the Interstate Cotton Seed

Crushers' Association to prepare a standard method for the laboratory refining test and, to quote the words of the rule in effect at that time, "give any arbitration chemists pointers on how to refine oil to get the best results." Note that "arbitration" was the order of the day, not "agreement." We can report at this writing that our first 1,000 cars to enter our plant this season (1958-59) have checked



Felix Paquin
First President

without one arbitration. What has brought about this difference? The work of the Refining Committee.

Eventually the matter of refining tests became so troublesome and so important that a committee to handle this matter, alone, was appointed in 1916. For 10 years this committee and its successors attempted to standardize the original method but without complete success. An intensive study of all the variables connected with the refining test was therefore considered necessary, and money was appropriated by the N.C.P.A. for the study. A research chemist was placed at the disposal of the committee for a period of six months during the year 1926-27. This resulted in the establishment of a method, adopted and first published in 1927, in which all choice of conditions on the part of the operator was eliminated; this is substantially the method now used. Cluff was succeeded by H. S. Mitchell as

chairman in 1936. The work on refining soybean oil was done in the laboratories under Mitchell's direction. A satisfactory method was developed for Expeller and hydraulic soybean oils as well as extracted oils.

THE Uniform Methods Committee has been so intimately interwoven with the growth and progress of our Society that we should know something of the men who formed it. From such records as are available it appears that the formation of this committee practically coincides with the birth of the Society. The first personnel was as follows: Smalley, chairman, Barrow, Warren, Law, and Agee, who was chairman in 1913-1914. About 1917 the Society began publishing its proceedings as the Chemists' Section of the Cotton Oil Press. We believe from reports of conventions held from time to time that Smalley was chairman from 1914 through 1921. During those years the committee conducted cooperative work among the members of the Society by sending out cottonseed meal samples. This was later taken over by the Ammonia Committee, which was the start of the present Smalley Committee for crude cottonseed oil, meal, *etc.*, *etc.* In the beginning the Uniform Methods Committee and the Chemists' Committee of the Interstate Cottonseed Crushers' Association (N.C.P.A.) were identical. This meant that the methods were recorded and adopted by the rules committee of the Interstate and were published in their proceedings. For years these were the only published methods of the Society.

F. B. Porter of Fort Worth became chairman in 1922. In 1925 the Society decided to have methods of its own; a committee was appointed with Cluff as chairman, and a looseleaf form in Lefax Binder was prepared. W. H. Irwin became chairman of the Committee on Revision of Methods and held this position until his death in 1937. J. T. R. Andrews was appointed as a member of the Uniform Methods Committee with the specific duty of keeping the meth-

ods up to date. Paquin became chairman in 1926 and was succeeded in 1929 by John Vollertsen, who held the chairmanship until 1947. Vollertsen, besides being chairman, helped the Society greatly by his wise direction and counsel during his 27 years on this committee. In 1949 Andrews took over the chairmanship, a position which he now so ably fills.

The rewriting of the American Oil Chemists' Society Methods by V. C. Mehlenbacher was a herculean task. The last list of the Society's Methods on 4 x 7 Lefax was January 1, 1944. These were small and weighed only 215 grams. Mehlenbacher and Vollertsen, then chairman of the Uniform Methods Committee, did a great piece of work which will stand as a monument of accomplishment. The revised methods now weigh 2166 grams. T. H. Hopper kept up the high standard set up by Mehlenbacher and was editor from 1950-1958.

Our Society has in 50 years had only seven editors of the Journal: Agee, H. S. Bailey, A. P. Lee, Irwin, H. L. Roschen, R. T. Milner, and our present editor, A. R. (Dick) Baldwin.

This 50th Anniversary Commentary would be incomplete without mentioning our honorary members: I. G. Priest, who worked very hard on our Lovibond color system; G. S. Jamieson, who was dean of scientific American oil chemists and was consulted when problems became complicated; J. C. P. (Johnny) Helm, who almost alone handled all the Society's business for 20 years. Others were Bailey, C. L. Alsberg, W. W. Stockberger, C. A. Browne, Roschen. The last two to be honored were Paquin and Vollertsen.

We are indeed happy to have Tom Law with us that we may express our appreciation for his wise guidance and help, which he has always so willingly given.

These are only a few of the men who have made the American Oil Chemists' Society what it is today. We are certain to have omitted many names of members of accomplishments and stature during these 50 years; of these we ask their kind indulgence. May we strike forward boldly to greater accomplishments even more fruitful than our past!

Again, New Orleans welcomes you!!

JAMES J. GANUCHEAU, Wesson Oil and Snowdrift Company Inc., Gretna, La.

• Names in the News

Herbert M. Schroeder has been appointed manager of Industrial Products Research at Spencer Kellogg and Sons Inc., Buffalo, N.Y.

B. L. Oser (1945) has been appointed a lecturer on the faculty of Columbia University in the Institute of Nutrition Sciences, School of Public Health and Administrative Medicine, New York, N.Y.

As vice president of the Winfield Equipment Company, Cleveland, O., F. C. Haas (1926) will establish liaison between Lurgi, Frankfurt, West Germany, and consumers in the United States in the chemical, petroleum, steel, armament, oils and fats, and other industries using hydrogen or oxygen in high volume.

D. H. Jackson (1948) has been elected president of Croll-Reynolds Company Inc., Westfield, N.J.

D. D. Downes has been appointed assistant sales manager, Distillation Products Division, of the Capital City Products Company, Columbus, O.

The Argentine Detergent Commission, Buenos Aires, Argentina, has elected the following officers: president, A. L. Weil; board members, J. C. Espector, H. Valdez, and E. Fridman, and treasurer, H. Garcia Collins.

Because of the impending retirement of R. E. Horsey (1952), vice president in charge of sales, Givaudan-Delawanna, Inc., N.Y., is announcing certain changes. D. F. Lum will be succeeded by R. L. Williams as manager of the Chicago branch office of Givaudan-Delawanna Inc. and its associate companies, Givaudan Flavors Inc. and Sindar Corporation. He will continue to serve his customers.

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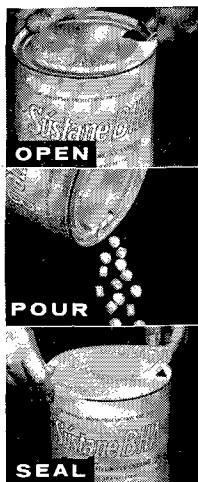
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