

## The President Looks at the 50th Year

WHAT I have to say today can be summed up in a single word, PROGRESS. So naturally I was tempted to set the mood for this message by contrasting the present with the past. This, after all, is the oldest and most common device ever invented for showing progress. It has one basic weakness however in that some of us "old-timers" cherish our fond memories of the "good old days." And because we do, these comparisons evoke an emotion quite the opposite of that intended.

This explains why I decided to reverse the process today. Rather than think of all the great changes that have taken place over the years, let's consider briefly the striking similarities between "then" and "now."

For example, fifty years ago, the year this Society was organized, Robert E. Peary trudged across the frozen top of the world on snowshoes. The close of 1958 saw Commander Anderson cruise comfortably under Peary's drifted trail in the atomic-powered *Nautilus*. A new approach, but the same goal!

In 1909 the U. S. Army put its first airplane into flight; last year the Army put its first satellite into orbit. Same goal, but on a bigger scale! The first Model T Ford rolled off the assembly line in 1909. The Ford Thunderbird may be longer, lower, and faster, but it serves the same purpose as the Tin Lizzy on a sunny Sunday afternoon. A half century ago the lyrical command was "Put On Your Old Gray Bonnet," today it's "Put On Your Blue Suede Shoes."

Back "then" women showed their disregard for male approval by wearing bulky hats festooned with fruit, flowers, fur, and plumes. I ask you, "what's so different today?"

The whole point is this: while times change, people and the goals they strive for stay pretty much the same. Our organization is a prime example. After 50 years the Society is still working toward the

goals set forth by its founders. True, the progress we have made was certainly inconceivable 50 years ago, but our basic philosophy is unchanged. And that is as it should be!



J. C. Konen

When the original Society was formed in 1909, three standing committees were formed: the Membership Committee, the Committee on Uniform Methods and Cooperative Work, and the Governing Committee. These three bodies still exist.

Under the leadership of Norris Embree the Membership Committee has worked valiantly during the past year to increase our roster with well-qualified persons. As of December 31, 1958, we listed 2,675 members. As a measure of progress—in 1919 we had three corporation members, today we have 120.

The Uniform Methods Committee continues to examine all analytical methods recommended to the Society so that the highest possible standards may be attained. This group works diligently and objectively throughout the whole year and deserves the commendation of the Society membership. It is because of their critical guidance that the A.O.C.S. Methods have become internationally recognized for excellence in the fats and oils industry.

J. T. R. Andrews has announced his pending retirement and is to be replaced as chairman of this committee by T. H. Hopper. In turn, E. M. Sallee is to become editor of the Analytical Methods to replace Mr. Hopper. I wish to express, on behalf of the Society, a tremendous debt of gratitude to Mr. Andrews, who has been a member of the Uniform Methods Committee continuously for 22 years and its chairman since 1949.

COMMITTEE activity continues to be the life-blood of the Society. During this year the president officially confirmed approximately 600 committee appointments. It obviously would be impractical in this report to review the accomplishments of this tremendous group of contributors. However mention of a few will serve as illustrations.

The Statistical Committee, of which William Link is chairman, is a new group but has already come up with a tentative method for the determination of precision and accuracy of test methods. This fills a long-felt need.

The Fat Analysis Committee, under the strong leadership of V. C. Mehlenbacher, is comprised of nearly 100 members, divided into 20 subcommittees, who are now working on approximately 40 analytical methods.

R. W. Bates, chairman of the Smalley Committee, reports another good year. As an illustration, this past year there were 139 collaborators on the analysis of meal samples as compared with 69 in 1947. This indeed is progress. We are pleased to announce that Armour and Company has graciously offered to donate the new Smalley Award.

The Examination Board, under the chairmanship of N. W. Ziels, has granted Referee Certificates to 40 commercial laboratories during this year.

Under the auspices of the Education Committee a very successful Short Course on Soap and Syndets was held at Princeton, N. J.

F. D. Snell and his committee are to be congratulated for handling so efficiently the program and arrangements for this course. Karl Mattil, chairman of the Education Committee, reports good progress in the planning of the 1959 Short Course on Drying Oils by M. W. Formo and his committee.

Under the enthusiastic leadership of A. E. MacGee the membership and activities of the Technical Safety Committee continue to expand. Although the whole committee has been extremely active, the work of the solvent extraction subcommittee in up-dating the 36T Standards for Solvent Extraction plants is especially worthy of note.

The National Program Committee, with Waldo C. Ault as chairman, has been of assistance in arranging the attendance of several foreign visitors at the 50th Anniversary convention.

The Journal of the American Oil Chemists' Society hit a new high in paid subscriptions with a circulation of 4,964 as of December 31, 1958. More than one-third of the copies printed are sent to foreign countries, thus attesting to the excellence of our Journal. A. R. Baldwin, Mrs. Lucy R. Hawkins, and their co-workers can justly be proud of the results of their efforts. A new look to the editorial page and a new department on hobbies denote progress and improvement in this activity. Other additions and changes are contemplated during the coming year to make the magazine more appealing to its readers and advertising clients.

It is with real regret that we note the passing of several members: Benjamin F. Adams, O. M. Bakke, M. M. Durkee, S. S. Guthrie, George S. Jamieson, Clyde C. McInnes, A. W. Schlenker, Jean Paul Sisley of Paris, France, G. R. Thompson, and W. H. Woodstock. Dr. Jamieson was elected an honorary member of A.O.C.S. in 1922 and was a world-renowned authority on fats and oils.

Seven members have been transferred from active to emeritus membership status during the year: F. W. Blair, Martin L. Degavre, Henry C. Dormitzer, Thomas E. Drisko, Arthur Guillaudeu, D. C. Picard, and Henry A. Schuette.

Memphis was host to the membership for the Spring meeting of 1958. Chicago again graciously arranged the Fall Meeting. Both conventions attained the high standards set over recent years for both the social and the technical programs. Congratulations are due the staffs and the respective chairmen: for Memphis, Allen Smith, and for Chicago, Charles W. Hoerr and A. A. Rodeghier.

**A** FEATURE of the Chicago meeting was the formal recognition of T. H. Hopper for his long service as editor of the *Methods* and of M. M. Piskur for his preparation of the Annual Review of Literature for the Journal during a period of 24 years. Such recognition was well deserved, and all members of the Society should be grateful to these men for their contributions.

Two other forms of recognition in Society affairs have been achieved this year. It was your president's pleasure to be present in Chicago when the new A. E. Bailey Medal was presented to its first recipient, V. C. Mehlenbacher. The North Central Section is to be complimented for originating this award, for honoring the memory of an outstanding member in naming the award, and for choosing a most respected member of A.O.C.S. to be the first to receive the award. At this New Orleans meeting the Bond Medal Award will be presented for the first time to the per-

son giving the outstanding technical paper at the Chicago fall meeting. To the anonymous donor of this medal I wish to express the thanks of A.O.C.S. for his making it possible.

As the Society grows older, more and more of its members will become eligible for emeritus status. Feeling that this honor should not be granted too lightly, a committee headed by Howard Black was appointed to study proper procedures for selecting emeritus members on a consistent basis. The findings of the committee will be publicized later.

Realizing that the services to industry offered by A.O.C.S. can be vastly extended by cooperation with other allied technical organizations, the Governing Board set out to find a means for implementing this extension. K. E. Holt was selected to head a committee to study liaison and cooperation between A.O.C.S. and other groups. The results of this study definitely indicate the need for widening our associations. The committee's recommendations will be formalized into policy by the incoming Governing Board.

It is the responsibility of each new president and Governing Board to carry on the established program of the Society with freshness and vigor; it is also necessary that they respond quickly to novel situations and changing circumstances so that the well-being of the Society may be protected.

A year ago, when the budget was presented to the Board, it was evident that the Society would be operating at a loss. Advertising revenues had decreased, and the cost of services and publications had increased. Strong measures to reverse this unfavorable trend were obviously necessary. They were taken. The subscription rate of the Journal was raised from \$6 to \$8 per year. Membership dues were increased a corresponding amount, from \$8 to \$10. Such increases are never popular. The members will realize however that even the new rates are low for a Society with the stature of A.O.C.S.

The advertising contract with Harley L. Ward Inc. was terminated, and new agencies were employed: William T. Mohrman in the East and Davis and Sons in the Midwest. "Doc" MacGee and his Advertising Committee went to work with great vigor to turn up prospects and to assist the new solicitors in every possible way. Mrs. Hawkins and her staff gave much thought and many hours to devising promotional material and doing research that would help persuade advertisers to use space in our publication. Although we were approximately \$5000 in the red this past year, the trend seems to have reversed. With continuation of the efforts so well begun, we are confident that in the near future we will overcome our difficulties. Make no mistake, your Society is still in a strong financial position, but we cannot long operate with an annual deficit and continue strong! We would like to offer our personal thanks to all the people who have responded so well in this difficult circumstance.

**M**Y TASK as your president this past year has been almost rewarding. It has been a source of real inspiration to me to observe the selfless manner of so many co-workers who give of their time and energy to serve their collaborators, their Society, and their profession. In recognition of this, I feel that all members of A.O.C.S. should strive to: 1. participate in committee activities so that we may continue our progress, 2. help the Advertising Committee and the Chicago office in their research and promotion efforts

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