

The American Oil Chemists' Society at the Crossroads

Report of the President 1967-1968

THE AMERICAN OIL CHEMISTS' SOCIETY is continuing its development as a modern, sophisticated, scientific society. At the same time it has its feet firmly planted on the practical applications of advancing knowledge in all aspects of lipid science: utilization, technology, chemistry, and nutrition.

It is this dual role which makes our Society unique. The papers presented at our meetings and published in our journals cover the entire spectrum from standards used in trading of fats and oils to the mechanisms involved in biosynthetic reactions. Such broad exposure stimulates each of us and strengthens our armamentaria synergistically.

There are those who feel uncomfortable in a changing environment, but in the technical and scientific world one rides the tides of progress or is inundated by them. The past few years have seen the academic world adding a new dimension to our programs. It must be emphasized that this addition has not been at the expense of the industrial aspects of our activities since these have also increased. We have broadened our base to the benefit of all concerned.

During the past year the activities of the Society further attest to the breadth and depth of our interests and attainments. Perusal of the technical programs of our recent meetings, and the present one, is clearly convincing of the scientific maturity of our members in a broad diversity of subjects, but reminds the reader that basic chemistry and applied technology are not strangers in the late 20th century, and that it behooves the priests of one to follow closely the teachings of the apostles of the other. The same is true of the papers in our journals.

Not only has there been an observable increase in the kinds and excellence of the contributions to our meeting programs and journal publications, but there has been a significant increase in numbers. The day has passed when the participants in our meetings had less than 70 papers to select from. They now have more than twice that number to challenge their intellectual curiosity. Specifically, during the past three years there have been 228, 247, and 261 papers presented respectively at our meetings. Five years ago there were only 205.

The Managing Editor, Carl Hauber, and the Editors, A. R. Baldwin and W. O. Lundberg and their staffs are to be complimented on the yeoman job they have done with our journals, especially in the formation of *Lipids* which is now firmly on its feet and established as a leading international journal in basic lipid science, a proud addition to our *Journal of the American Oil Chemists' Society* which is the greatest journal in the world in the field of fats and fat-like substances.

Under the able leadership of Forrest Quackenbush, a new Guide to Authors of *Lipids* is being written and will soon be distributed. This has been a difficult job and the committee is to be highly complimented for the high standards and usability of their product. The reviewers of manuscripts for *Lipids* will also be aided by a new form for their comments and by revised instructions for manuscript editing.

The Short Courses, under the capable hand of Noel Kuhrt and his Education Committee, have been of their usual excellence. There were three during the past year, two of which were well attended and most rewarding to the participants. They also made money for the Society. The third was an experiment in combining a Short Course with a meeting. It was not financially successful but those who participated gained a great deal.

Plans are underway for an ambitious group of Short

Courses for the next two years. As plans crystallize you will be informed of them.

Acting on instructions from the Executive Committee, George Cavanagh, Secretary of the Governing Board, and Chairman of the Local Section Liaison Committee, and Lois Crauer, Chairman of the Committee Scopes, have dissolved the Local Section Liaison Committee and replaced it with a Communications Committee which, it is hoped, will be more functional. The scope of the Communications Committee is "To provide two-way communication between local section areas and the parent organization," even though the areas may not be within the Local Sections. The Chairman of the Committee, to be appointed by the Secretary, will appoint local representatives in cities within the Local Sections, and also in areas outside of Local Sections. According to the Scopes, the committee members are:

"To report news concerning members, companies, or products from local areas to the Journal.

To forward information and problems of the local areas to the Committee Chairman for presentation to the Governing Board.

To inform Local Sections and areas of Society business, technical meetings, and committee activities.

To assist in setting up new Local Sections.

To generate good will and improve public relations of the AOCs in all local areas."

This new Communications Committee can become one of the most potent forces in our Society by maintaining a dynamic situation within local areas, and between local areas and the parent organization. It may also resolve what is probably the greatest problem in the AOCs, increase in membership.

Although the AOCs has grown in many ways, such as the size and technical excellence of the meetings, the activities of the many technical committees, and the stature of its journals, its financial position, and in the image it presents to the scientific community, it has an achilles' heel: its numerical growth.

There are few more members today than there were at this time in 1966. We have a little over 200 more members than in 1963. It is true that there has been a turnover in membership and it is certain that the quality of the new members is much better than that of those who resigned. Only this can explain the strengthening of the Society. But we must grow, or inevitably, we will shrink. We cannot stand still. Responsibility for the growth of the Society rests on the shoulders of the members. Each of you must be sold on the value of the Society and must sell it to your colleagues.

If you wish to continue to reap a harvest from the activities of the Society you must help build it. As with any other human activity, one gets from the AOCs what he puts into it. An area in which you each can serve both yourself and your Society is in the technical and other committees. Committee meetings are open affairs. Visit them. You will be welcomed and invited to express yourself. I highly recommend that those of you who are not active on committees multiply the advantages and pleasure you get from your membership by participating in the deliberations of one or more of the technical committees and thus leave your mark on technology. Or, if you have an idea how the Society may be improved, get on the appropriate administrative committee and leave your mark on the Society.

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• AOCs Past Presidents Series

WILLIAM A. PETERSON, 1955

William A. Peterson was the 46th president of the Society.

Pete, as he was known to most of us, was born in New York City in 1897. He obtained his BS degree from Cooper Union College in Brooklyn, N.Y. in 1920.



W. A. Peterson

His first job was washing bottles for Kirkman and Son, who were later purchased by the Colgate Co. Pete spent the rest of his working life with Colgate which later became the Colgate-Palmolive-Peet Co. and then the Colgate-Palmolive Co.

Pete served on the following committees in the Society: Glycerine Analysis, 1930-32, 1951-59; Soap Analysis, 1931-36; Secretary, Soap Section, 1929-32; Governing

Board, 1951-59, and Chairman, Local Sections, 1953-55. He had been appointed General Chairman of the New York Fall Meeting in 1960 but died suddenly in 1959.

• AOCs Commentary

(Continued from page 320A)

As you have heard from the Treasurer's report, this was a healthy year financially. Total assets grew \$49,000. Although net revenue was down from the truly unusual level of last year it still was a very respectable \$28,000.

You will be interested in knowing that we have been fortunate in obtaining much needed office space. I recommend that when any of you are in Chicago you stop at 35 East Wacker Drive and visit our light, roomy, and pleasant offices. The contrast to the old crowded quarters is almost startling.

As you all know, our Constitution has been thoroughly revised and the revisions submitted to the membership for their assessment. We will learn your decision in a few minutes. Now, however, I am happy to take the opportunity to commend our Past President, Ronald Stillman, for a painstaking, intelligent job which required all of his unusual knowledge of the workings of the Society gained through many years of active participation.

Some giant advances have been made in the preparation of several manuals which act as guides in the conduct of Society business. One of the most important is the Committee Scopes Manual which describes the scope and function of all committees, their makeup, and their method of operation. Lois Crauer deserves kudos for this.

Another is the Meetings Planning Manual. Those of you who have served on the meetings committees know how important this is. Thanks go to Ade Rodeghier and his committee.

The Awards Administrative Committee, competently led by Ron Stillman, has extended and revised the rules for the awards administered by our Society.

It is my sad duty to read the names of our colleagues who have died during the past year: D. C. Picard (1910—longest term membership in the Society's history—58 years); H. M. Abbott (1935); W. F. Beedle (1936); William F. Gelden (1930); R. E. Berry (1966); A. R. Gudheim (1934); J. P. Harris (1927); F. H. Lehberg (1953); R. J. Leonard (1956); Charles Raschke (1940); Leopold Sender (1948); Ezra Staple (1964); Frank Woodson (1928); J. F. Zievers (1952); W. G. Reese (1948); and Sidney Singleton (1943). In addition we were advised of the death of Mrs. J. R. Mays, the wife of J. R. Mays (1916, President 1950-51). Let us stand for a few moments of silence in respect to their memory.

TURNER H. HOPPER, 1956

Turner H. Hopper became the 47th president of the Society in 1956.

"Hop," as he is known to all of his friends, was born in Jacksonville, Illinois, July 22, 1894. He obtained his



T. H. Hopper

Bachelor of Arts Degree from Westminster College in 1917 and a Master of Arts from the University of Missouri in 1920, in Agricultural Chemistry. His employment over the years includes: 1917-1920, Assistant Agricultural Chemist, Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station; 1920-1939, Agricultural Chemist, North Dakota Agricultural Experimental Station; 1939-1942, Leader, Analytical Section, USDA Regional Laboratory at Urbana, Illinois. From May, 1941 to November, 1942 he

was Director; 1942-1958, Head of Analytical Section, Southern Utilization, Research and Development Division of the Agricultural Research Service (USDA), New Orleans; 1958-1962, Chief of Oil Seed Crops at the above organization.

He served in the US Naval Reserve during World War I. Hop is a member of the Sigma Xi fraternity, RESA, ACS (Emeritus) AIC (Emeritus) and an Honorary Member of the AOCs. He has received numerous awards, viz: USDA Superior Service Award, AIC Honor Scroll, AOCs Special Merit Award for ten years' service as Editor of Analytical Methods, and the Alumni Achievement Award of Westminster College. He has authored approximately 100 papers and supervised or contributed to the development or research leading to the publication of nearly 550 papers and patents by individuals under his supervision.

He was Secretary of the Society from 1951-1954 and, like J. J. Vollertsen, he worked tirelessly for the Society. Among the administrative committees on which he saw service were: Membership, Nominating and Elections, Convention Manual, By-Laws Revision, Emeritus Membership, Check Sample, New Orleans Representative and New Orleans Convention Chairman. On most of these he was chairman. He also served as chairman of the following Technical Committees: Soybean Analysis, Seed & Meal Analysis (1944-1960); Uniform Methods and Editor of Analytical Methods (1950-1960).

During his administration three new committees were originated, viz: Statistical, Technical Safety and the National Program and Planning Committee.

Hop is now retired, and he and his wife, Clayton, reside in Higbee, Missouri.

Before I close, it gives me great pleasure to acknowledge the cooperation and superb performance of a great group of officers and of the members-at-large of the Governing Board. I wish I could take the time to tell you of the outstanding contributions of each in graciously giving of his and her time and talents to the solution of the myriad problems, simple and complex, involved in the smooth running of this active Society. I thank also the membership of the Society for the compliment and the confidence you expressed in me by electing me to this highest office in the Society. I hope that I have been worthy of it.

Respectfully submitted,
RAYMOND REISER