

1,365 register for San Francisco meeting

The joint meeting of the American Oil Chemists' Society and Japan Oil Chemists' Society in San Francisco literally began as an earth-shaking event when an earthquake rocked the city at 4:45 p.m., Friday, April 27.

Local committee members, AOCs staff and Fairmont Hotel representatives were meeting in the hotel's Cirque Room at the time of the earthquake. The brief vibrations were about equivalent to having a heavy truck rumble past a frame house. The earthquake registered about 4.2 on the Richter scale, and no significant damage was reported in local media reports.

Only a relatively few of the record 1,365 persons who attended the meeting already were in the city at the time of the earthquake. For most of them the main action began Sunday, April 29, with registration and AOCs committee meetings, or Monday, when the first of 37 technical sessions began. Approximately 50 of the 250 papers presented at the meeting were by members of the Japan Oil Chemists' Society. Technical session topics ranged from building processing plants outside the United States to the relationships between lipids and cancer.



AOCs President David Firestone, left, with Dr. I. Hara, chairman of the JOCS Executive Committee for the joint meeting.

The Governing Board met twice during the week, approving an increase in active member dues to \$34 from \$24, with similar increases for all

categories of membership except corporate dues, which remain at \$200.

Keynote speaker for the opening plenary breakfast, Monday, April 30, was Dr. Sanford Miller, head of the FDA's Bureau of Foods. Dr. Miller spoke against transfer of the FDA from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Rumors of such a shift have been heard in Washington during the past year. Dr. Miller argued the FDA's regulatory function should not be in the USDA which is heavily lobbied and influenced by food processors.



Dr. Sanford Miller, head of FDA's Bureau of Foods, addressed Monday plenary breakfast.

Dr. Miller also said that attempts to assess benefit-risk ratios of food additives of ingredients are virtually meaningless at present as there is "no conceptual or methodological model to evaluate 'risk-benefit,' there is no way to appropriate calculate benefit."

FDA's role has changed since the 1900s when the federal government first began to regulate the food industry, Dr. Miller said. At that time, the concern was for protecting the public from fatal contamination. In the early days of FDA, human volunteers consumed the items being studied. Later, animal tests were developed in which the evaluation was based on whether the animals lived or died, did grow or did not grow.

"Today's concern is with quality of life rather than mortality," Dr. Miller



JOCS' Dr. Hara addresses plenary session.

said, noting the public shows more fear of cancer with its potentially debilitating effects than it shows fear of death by heart disease, which kills more people annually.

FDA has accomplished its original tasks to a large extent, Dr. Miller said. More uproar attended six cases of botulism in Louisiana recently than was heard about botulism during the early 1900s when thousands of cases occurred annually.

At a second plenary breakfast held Wednesday, Dr. Stephen S. Chang presented his acceptance address as the



General Chairman George Cavanagh, left, presented JOCS' Dr. Hara with redwood clock as memento of joint meeting.



AOCS President Dr. David Firestone presents Award in Lipid Chemistry plaque to Dr. Stephen S. Chang.

1979 recipient of the AOCS Award in Lipid Chemistry. Speaking on "Flavor and Flavor Stability of Fats and Oils in High Lipid Foods," Dr. Chang traces his internationally known flavor research from the 1950s, when few of today's modern analytical instruments were available, through to the present. Dr. Chang is chairman of the Department of the Food Science at Rutgers, The State University, in New Brunswick, NJ.



JOCS-AOCS special reception.



JOCS-AOCS reception Sunday found youngest attendee enjoying maraschino cherries.

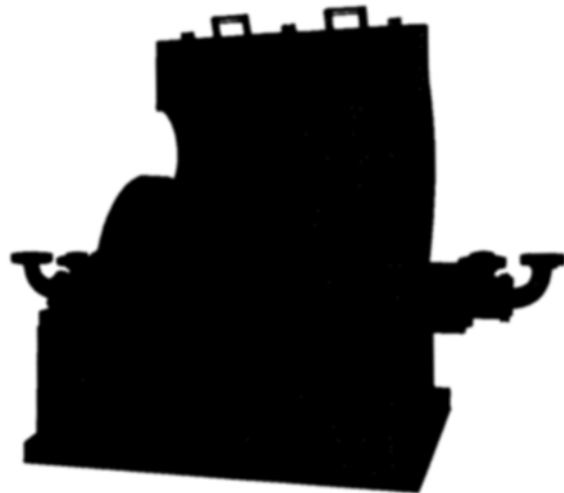
Meeting social events were well attended. A special reception for Japanese Oil Chemists' Society members was held Sunday, April 29, just before the official opening mixer. A group of 60 JOCS members arrived in San Francisco Sunday afternoon. JOCS representatives also extended an invitation to AOCS to participate in a third joint meeting of the two societies.

Approximately 1,000 persons attended the Sunday evening opening mixer as well as the Wednesday evening banquet; attendance was



Manny Harmon's orchestra provided music for dancing.

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slightly less at the Monday and Wednesday plenary breakfasts, which were innovations for an AOCS national meeting this year.

Thirty firms participated in the meeting exposition, with good attendance throughout the week.

The meeting was one of the best attended by spouses accompanying technical program registrants. More than 230 persons participated in the spouses' program, which included tours of San Francisco and San Mateo areas, lunch in Chinatown and a local country club, plus an Elizabeth Arden make-up and hair styling seminar.

And, as if to emphasize that AOCS meetings are indeed earth-shaking events, a 4.8 earthquake rocked San Francisco a few days after the meeting had ended.



Sunday afternoon is busy time in registration area.



Wine-and-cheese mixer Sunday evening was first major social event.



JOCS-AOCS reception Sunday.



Jim Ridlehuber, seated, chairman of Smalley Check Sample Program, presented awards to Smalley winners in San Francisco among whom were, standing, left to right, H.L. Haynie of Swift Edible Oils, Ft. Worth, TX, in edible fats, and A.C. McConnell, Woodson-Tenent Labs in Memphis, TN, for cottonseed aflatoxins.



Award in Lipid Chemistry winner Dr. Stephen Chang, third from left, and his wife Lucy were guests at a luncheon sponsored by Applied Science. Others are, from left, Applied Science's Subramania Ramachandran, Applied Science General Manager Peter Bonnett, and, far right, Doug Cavanagh and George Cavanagh.