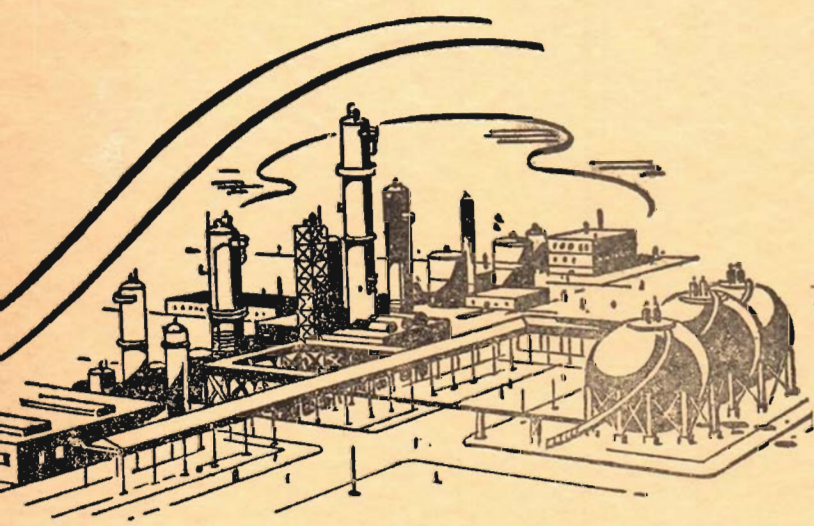


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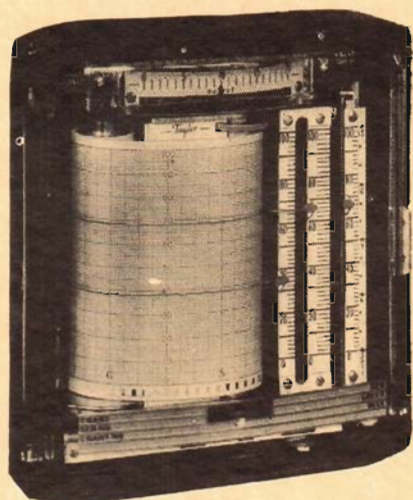


SARNIA SECTION



Monthly Bulletin

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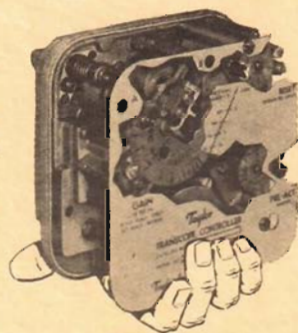
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SARNIA SECTION

has as its objective the advancement of the arts and sciences associated with the theory, design and use of measuring and control instruments in the various industries in the Sarnia area.

The immediate benefits derived by the Sarnia members include a monthly meeting at which a qualified speaker discusses an instrument subject after which members fraternize with other instrument men and interchange ideas and news at a social hour, a subscription to the "I.S.A." JOURNAL, a subscription to the Sarnia Section "BULLETIN", access to all technical data, servicing techniques and standardization policies developed by the National Committees of the ISA and an annual school for mechanics and technicians.

As a member of the National body of the Instrument Society of America, a rapidly growing and influential technical society, the member partakes indirectly in the progress of instrumentation made possible by the work of the various National Committees.

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Meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month from September to May inclusive at 8.00 P.M. The meetings are held at the Vendome Hotel unless otherwise announced.

Anyone earning his livelihood through the manufacture or use of instruments and who is acceptable to the executive body may become a member of the Sarnia Section, I.S.A. Dues are \$12.00 per annum. Associate Members are those who are associated with instruments but who do not earn their livelihood directly from them, such as stationary engineers, process operators, etc. Their dues are \$7.50 per annum.

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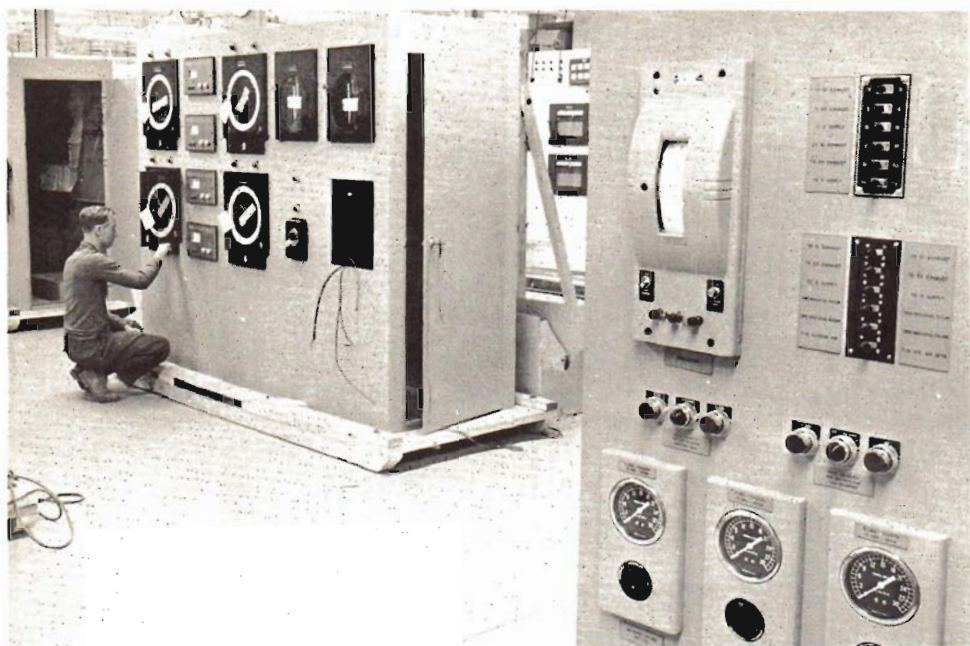
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The "BULLETIN"

VOLUME 8: No. 8

APRIL 1959

EDITOR'S NOTES

In this April issue of the "Bulletin", we have a contribution from Larry Hall. His analysis of our problems is a thoughtful one, and it will be interesting to find whether or not our readers are in agreement with him.

Our President, Mike Hicks, has given us the result of the last executive meeting, where a revised policy, for the coming year, was decided upon. The slate of battered veterans, who have consented to navigate our foundering ship for the next twelve months is also included. Whether or not I shall form one of this hardy band is still a moot point. Should the "Bulletin" keep proportionate to our reduced activities it will be only a hand-bill in any case. Mike Likens our next year's effort to the last gallant advance of Napoleon's Old Guard at Waterloo. Let us hope we do not share their fate. I must admit however, that at the moment, I feel more like following the example of those allied forces who, upon hearing the shouts of the oncoming French columns, turned and marched for Brussels without engaging in the fray.

"Who, then, hath honour?"

"He that died o'Wednesday."

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ORPHAN

Jack Graham has disclaimed authorship of the poem we published last month. This is of unknown origin and has been used and revised many times so we need fear no lawsuits.

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WHITHER BOUND?

An Analysis Of Our Future

By Larry Hall

Our hard working Editor has asked me to make a final contribution to "The Bulletin". Since I am leaving instrument work after fourteen years, during which I have been (except for the past year) an active member of the local I.S.A. section, I felt this might be a good time to make public some of the thoughts I have had on the usefulness, or otherwise, of the Instrument Society of America to the many people employed in instrument work in the Sarnia area. We are all aware of a decreasing interest in the

affairs of the I.S.A. by members of the Sarnia Section. Over the past few years there have been many private and some public, discussions on what could be wrong. Among the items blamed were programmes, locations of meetings, time or day of meetings, dues and so on.

While all of these things may contribute to a declining interest, no reasonable member really believes they are the causes. With the exception of dues, over which the local section has no control, everything else has been tried. We have tried different locations, times and days for meetings. We have tried technical programmes and trade schools. We have had parties, given away door prizes and subsidized the cost of tickets to the point where it was no more expensive to attend the dinner meeting than to eat at home.

But, still we are not overwhelmed with members or forced to ask people to get extra chairs for the meeting. Looking at the other sections of the I.S.A. except for one or two, there is a general and steady progress and an increase in memberships and activities. How do they do it?

I have attended meetings of some of these other sections, Philadelphia and Rochester in particular, where the enthusiasm is high. What do they have that we do not have?

I think we have to get down to a basic analysis of the areas involved. Most of these successful sections are located in metropolitan areas where sales offices of instrument companies and head offices of users are located. The membership is 75% engineers. Because of liberal expense accounts every meeting is a dinner meeting with opportunity for plenty of "camaraderie" before and after the meeting.

The Sarnia area is one of big industries in a small town. It is primarily a producing area with head offices and sales offices located in other cities. The potential membership for the Sarnia Section, I.S.A. is 90% mechanics and 10% engineers. The actual membership is closer to 60% mechanics and 40% engineers. The executive body of the I.S.A. at National Office formulate their policies, as they should, for the majority, the engineers and salesmen, with little thought given to the minority—the mechanics and technicians.

The philosophy of an engineer is totally different from that of a mechanic. An engineer is usually in a supervisory position with freedom to organize his work. His opportunities are virtually limitless. Anything he can do to further his position, he will do, if ambitious at all.

He thinks it no sacrifice to pay twelve dollars a year for I.S.A. dues. (Most, especially salesmen, charge it to their expense accounts.) He loves to attend meetings where he can exchange ideas and gossip with fellow en-

gineers from other plants. He might pick up an idea he can use, and if he does, he is free to use it.

The mechanic, on the other hand, is restricted in his opportunities and freedom of action. Even if he gets a bright idea, he is not in a position to experiment with it. He can talk to salesmen, but can never buy. There is little incentive for him to attend I.S.A. meetings unless he can look forward to bettering himself as a foreman in the near future. And he, has no expense account! If the Sarnia Section is to remain as an entity at all, it will be for the use of the engineer or foreman only, and, as there are insufficient of these in Sarnia, the ultimate fate of the Sarnia Section, it seems to me, is dissolution.

I propose that some thought be given to forming an organization whose chief purpose is the betterment of the lot of the mechanic, technician and foreman in instrument work. It could be an actual branch of an instrument organization now operating in the British Isles, known as the "Society of Instrument Technologists". This organization consists of all instrument people from engineers with PHD'S down to the apprentice. They set their own examinations and membership grades and they are so highly thought of by industry that, while it is not a requisite to be a member to get a job (it is not a union), it is very rare that industry will take a man who is not a bonafide member. I have seen advertisements in British papers and other publications advertising for instrument men. All of them ended with "must be a member, Grade 2", (or other grade), "of the Society of Instrument Technologists".

I think this is what our mechanics and technicians want and would work for. All it needs is some organizing type to get it going. I had seriously thought of starting something like this myself, but now that my interests lie in the general engineering field, I shall have to direct my energies elsewhere. However, I should be glad to pass on the spade work I have done to other willing hands.

WHITHER THE SARNIA SECTION? PART II

By Mike Hicks

Before starting my "monthly" blues, I should like to apologize for my absence to all those concerned with the last meeting. It was, however, due to circumstances beyond my control, in that I was "strikebound" inside the plant. (If the editor will permit me to interject a personal note here the incarceration did me some good in that I now realize what dam fool places some of these engineers choose to put instruments!!) I would in particular like to apologize to the speaker on behalf of the Sarnia Section. I gather from Bob Connel that the turnout was comparable to the number of Douk-habours who now want to go back to Russia.

This all points up the problem, which was discussed at our last executive meeting. What are we going to do with the Sarnia Section next year? You may recall that you were contacted by the nominating committee recently and asked if you were willing to serve in any capacity, whatsoever, on the executive of the Sarnia Section. With one or two notable exceptions the response to this request was, I gather, so negative that one could almost hear the proverbial lead balloon thudding at the other end of the phone. My own view was that we should wind up the section completely and I was all prepared to do just this. However after quite an extensive discussion more conservative councils prevailed and we are going to try again for another year, with however certain changes. Our meetings will be held, one every two months instead of monthly and they will all be dinner meetings, held in more attractive surrounding than has hitherto been the case. We hope by these means to encourage a more social atmosphere, although still maintaining the technical aspect of the society for without that we might as well be the "Frothblower's Guild". In order to accomplish this, we have also decided to subsidize the meetings, but the treasurer has assured me that ample funds are available for this purpose.

As officers for next year, the nominating committee have come up with the following slate:

PRESIDENT — Mike Hicks
VICE PRESIDENT — Dick Rose
TREASURER — George Westerburg
SECRETARY — Ron Asselstine

You will note the same old faces are still around and I am sure that if anybody changes his mind at the next meeting and decides to run for office, we shall be only too pleased to hand the whole mess over to him!

You will be asked to vote on this slate at the next meeting, so please either your right or left hand over your head for about five seconds.

I have been fortunate in persuading Bob Connel to stay on as Programme Chairman and Norm Lay has offered to give him, what I am sure will be able assistance in looking after the social end of the proceedings. I have not yet asked Howard Hobbs to be Bulletin Editor, but I will take it that if this is published in its present form either he doesn't edit his copy or he has assented to wear his hair short for yet another year. Thanks Howard! As for the rest of the assorted committees, which the National Office (God bless them, they make a wonderful whipping boy in that they never bite back) say we should have, I am afraid we shall continue to stagger along without them for the time being.

This is our last desperate throw for the Sarnia Section, equivalent to the charge of the Old Guard at Waterloo. Remember, it is up to you. If you want a Sarnia Section, then all you have to do is to turn up at meetings — it is as simple as that!

* * *

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Our program announcements for this month, may come as a disappointment to the loyal members of our section. Unfortunately poor attendance at our March meeting has made it necessary to cancel our plans to have Glen Gallagher, chief instrument engineer of the Fluor Corporation of Los Angeles, speak at the next meeting. Total attendance last time was a mere 15 souls, two of whom were visitors.

Under the circumstances we had no alternative but to write to Glen and suggest that he cancel his plans. With a prospective audience of fifteen, we just do not have any right to ask him to prepare a paper and come all that way to speak at a meeting of our section.

Our April meeting will be held, at the regular time and place, and the program will be provided by local talent. We will present a talk on instrumentation problems during the start-up period of a new plant, and will attempt to pry into the background of these problems to see why they come up at all. We believe we can make this interesting for everyone, especially those who occasionally have to deal with plant start-ups.

Most of the experience which will form the basis of the discussion will have come from Imperial Oil refinery start-ups. However, when the prepared presentation is over, members of the audience (if any) will be invited to tell their own tall tales.

We will begin the meeting with a film entitled "Refinery at Work." This is a rather well done British effort, in sound and colour, which shows the transition of crude oil into its various products.

MEETING NOTICE

DATE: APRIL 27, 1959

PLACE: VENDOME HOTEL

TIME: 8.00 P.M.

TOPIC: **"INSTRUMENTATION AND THE START-UP OF NEW
REFINERY UNITS"**

SPEAKER: **MR. J. R. CONNELL**
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FILM: **"REFINERY AT WORK"**
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At long last, is made a decision,
The course that our Section will go,
For our present distressing position
Is lower, much lower, than low.

Shall we fold with a sob, or a whimper?
Or a groan, or a watering eye?
Or a childish display of ill-temper?
Or a heartfelt and quivering sigh?

But none of these things is becoming,
Such sentiments aren't apropos,
So set all the drummers a-drumming,
And give the old nose a big blow.

If it is decreed that we perish,
If this ends the section career,
Let us have us a wake we can cherish,
Let us die with a shout and a cheer.

Now put on the garments of sable,
And pin on the armbands of crepe,
And gather about the long table,
And drown our demise in the grape.

And let there be music and laughter,
And feasting, and everyone gay,
All hail to the echoing rafter,
And the night that is turned into day.

Though we're caught on the horns of destruction,
Hard and fast on the reef of despair,
Let us rave not nor cause an eruption
No howling, nor tearing the hair.

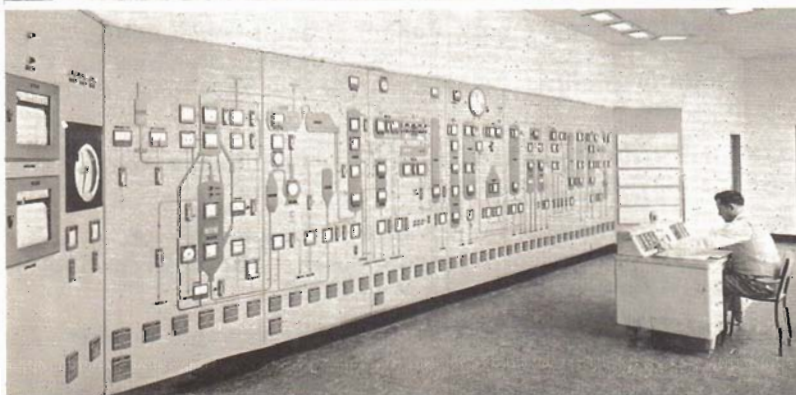
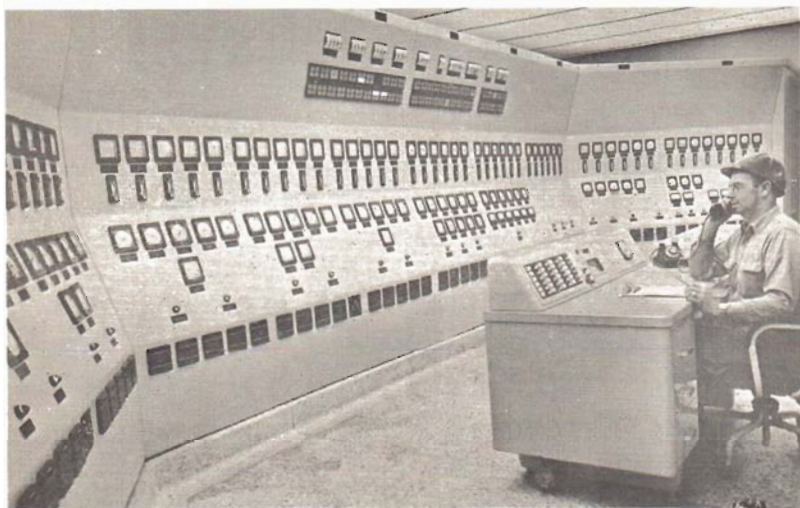
Let us pass, in a spirit that mellows,
And when, at the judgment arrive,
'Twill be said "They were excellent fellows,
A pity they're not still alive."

—H. Hobbs.

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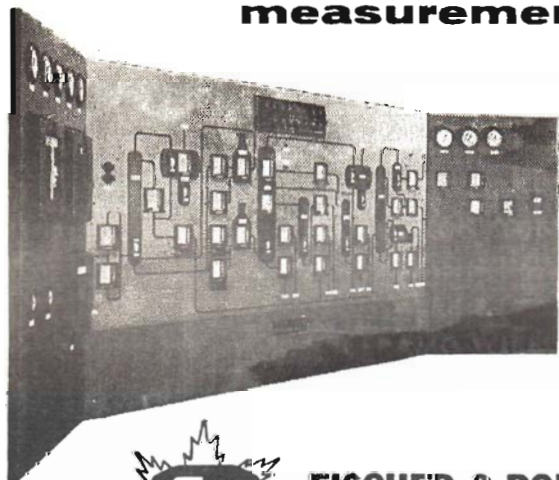
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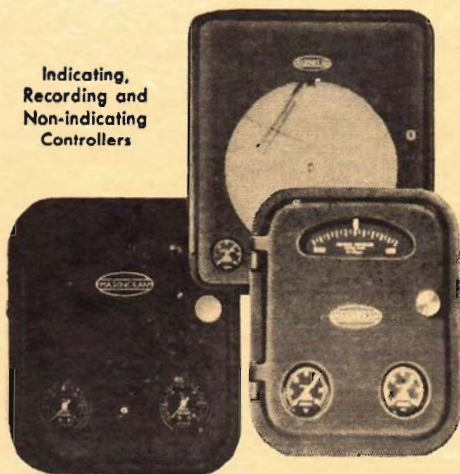
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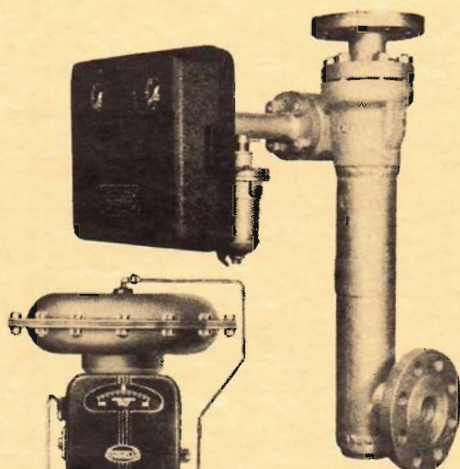
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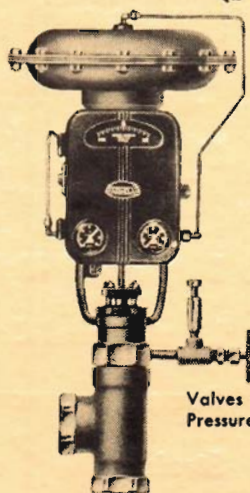
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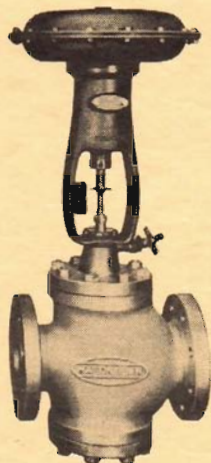
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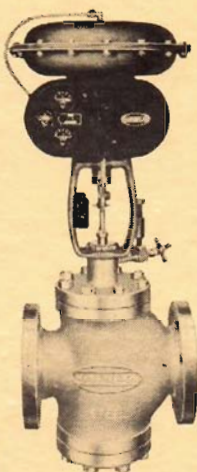
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