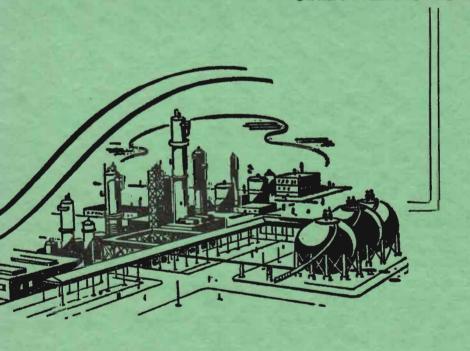
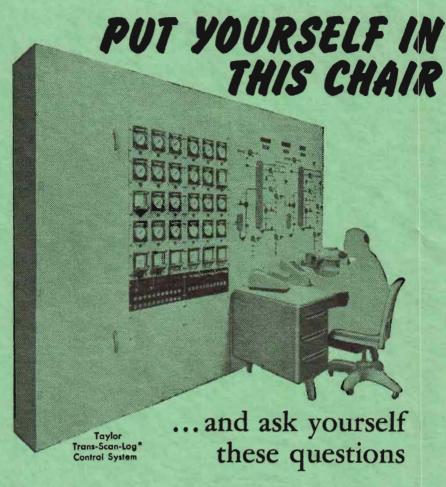




SARNIA SECTION



Monthly Bulletin



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The Instrument Society of America 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 Sornia 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 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 Sornia 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.

Copy for "THE BULLETIN" should be sent to the Managing Editor, Mr. H. Hobbs, 122 Cameron Street, Sarnia, Ontario.

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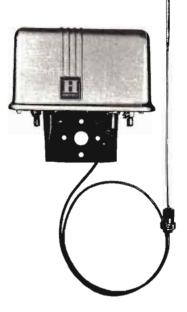
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The "BULLETIN"

VOLUME 7: No. 4 DECEMBER, 1957

EDITOR'S NOTES

This December issue does not announce a regular meeting, because everyone is customarily, too involved in other affairs to make such a meeting feasible.

We have a few lines from our President, Ron Asselstine, who yielded to the Editorial threats of last month. Keep this up Ron, and I'll be able to stop twisting your arm.

Bill Kirk, our most prompt and faithful contributor, has once again given us a lot of help.

The January meeting on Radio-Activity promises to be a good one, and will be announced in Next Month's Bulletin.

H. Hobbs.

NOVEMBER MEETING

The regular meeting of the Sarnia Section, I. S. A., commenced at 8 p.m. Monday, November 25th at the Vendome Hotel. Nearly sixty members and friends were present.

The first item on the program was a film, which employed both sound and colour to outline the development, growth, present uses, and future possibilities of our complicated friend, the Mass Spectrometer. I fear, that the uninitiated, at whom the film was evidently aimed, would certainly fall easy victims to its well-directed and tremendous broadside. With all due respect to this clever machine, I feel that it is not ready to emerge from the lab and rub shoulders with more simple-minded and robust equipment. He, who sets his temperatures from mass spec, results may put a lot of heavys up the flare or gasoline down the (heaven forbid) sewer. The graphs that emerge, seem open to many interpretations, and operations just can't wait for the sort of analysis they would appear to require.

The film was, nevertheless, clear and well worthy of the awards, which are mentioned prominently in its own preamble.

Our speaker for the evening, Dr. Charlie Skarstrom of Essso Research was introduced by the Program Chairman, Bob Connell of Imperial Oil.

Dr. Skarstrom's topic was "Gas Chromotography". He approached this subject by a rather circuitous route, giving us all a rather good glimpse of the bogs and pitfalls of materials analysis in general, along the way. There were many slides depicting actual analyzers in operation and others lying abandoned where the last frustrated Instrument man had left them. We saw sample systems that contained more valves, rotameters and temperature baths than many a process unit. We followed the Doctor up the dark alley, where dwell the infra-red machines and rubbed our bleary eyes in vain, as we peered through their rapidly fouling optical systems. We waved a sad good-bye to escaping reference gases. (And who can blame any sensible reference has for escaping?) He conducted us past some sinister looking viscosity meters and we waited breathless for the float to drop through almost unpumpable tars.

We saw a very successful instrument, that related an obscure electrical property, (perhaps capacitance?) of a material to qualify control.

We, toured the swamps and muskegs of the ever popular thermal conductivity system, and, as this forms part of most gas chromotography equipment, were brought to a halt at the brink of this new abyss. One more thing would have brought us to a halt anyway, friends, and that is the price tags. We all know that money is a dirty subject, so let it be enough to say that about here, things got real dirty.

I wonder how many of you have ever noticed that the more someone knows about any subject, the more thoroughly and simply he can explain it. Dr. Skarstrom gives much support to this theory. His comprehensive knowledge of analysis instruments, shows up in the way he can relate their action to common phenomena and in layman's terms. His analogy of gas chromotography to the action within a burning cigarette was one we will all remember.

He, quite rightly, stressed that any analyzer must not drift, must require little or no maintenance, and must from the very outset inspire confidence in the operating crew. These are qualities that, to date, few analyzers can boast of.

Of the various chromotogs, we were given a glimpse of, it seems evident that the one approaching these ideals is that developed by Dr. Skarstrom. To operate for a year and still total 97% among three materials, is almost miraculous.

This was a splendid lecture and we are all grateful to Dr. Skarstrom, Esso Research, and our Program Committee for having arranged it.



Best Wishes for

A Merry Christmas

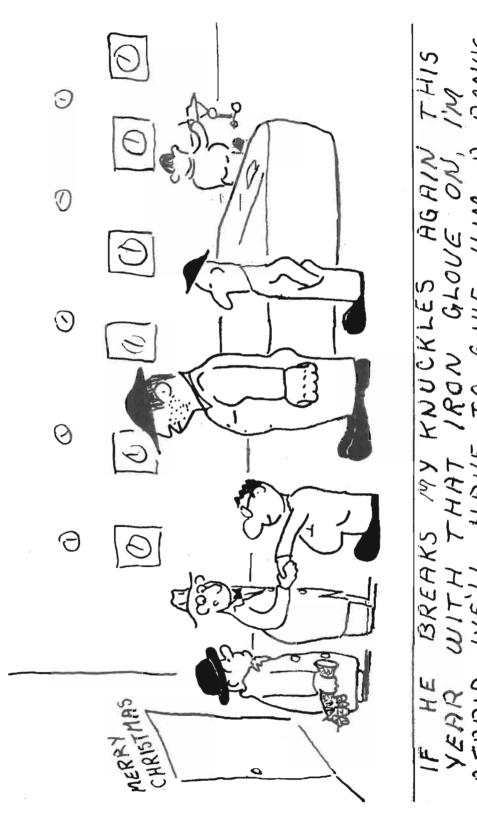
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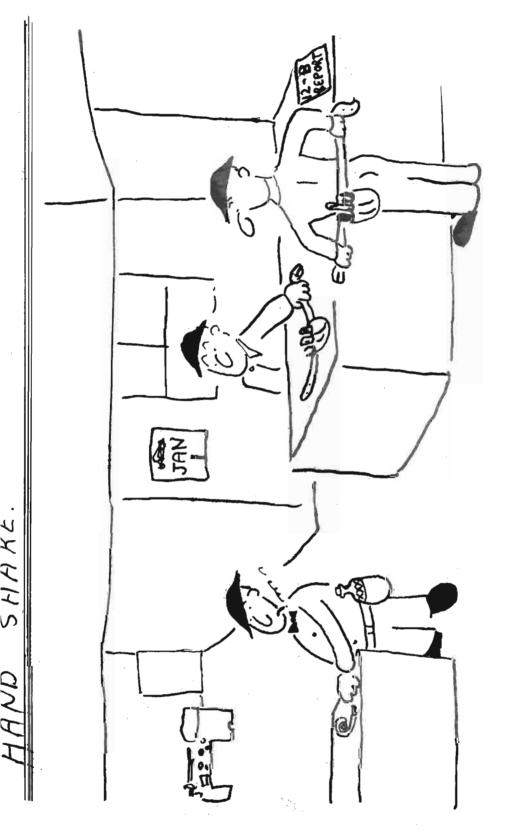
Happy New Pear

to our

Members and Advertisers







THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Ron Asselstine

One of the most repeated questions heard in a local I. S. A. section is, "What is the National Organization Doing For Me?" In order to answer this question in a more resounding fashion, the I. S. A. reorganized into Technical and Industry Divisions.

The purpose of the Industry Divisions is to seek out and present Instrument Industry Data peculiar to the industry of its concern.

The Chemical and Petroleum Industry Division, in conjunction with the Wilmington I. S. A. Section, are planning to do just that in a two-day symposium presented in Wilmington on the 3rd and 4th of February, 1958. This symposium is keyed to members working in the chemical and petroleum industries and is the most important I. S. A. function of the year for this group.

Program information and advance registration forms may be obtained by writing Mr. William Durkin, Fischer & Porter Company, 2011 Concord Pike, Wilmington, Delaware.

Several conclusions may be drawn from the poor attendance of members at the special meeting of November 14th. Which one, will no doubt be decided by next years Executive.

In closing, may I extend to one and all sincere wishes for a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

INSTRUMENTS ARE MY LINE

By E. W. Kirk

The Instrument Mechanics have always had new and various types of controls presented to them. With each new type, arguments pro and con were sure to follow. For example, when the stack controller with its counter part the p.c. cell made their appearance, the shop discussions that followed were sometimes hot and heavy.

Recently, however, the latest discussion appears to centre around electronic versus pneumatic types of instruments. Such a discussion was overheard the other day and although, I have worked on both types, I was pulling for the wind or reed type. Our pneumatic friend seemed to be slowly losing ground until he mentioned the control valve. In part, the following conversation:

REED: You say you have a springless Saunders type of control valve?

ELECTRONIC: Yep.

REED. So you use a large 4" Saunders valve eh? Ha!!! I'll go along with you in so far as your transmitters may be faster, and that your power relay, also serves as a valve positioner and I'll even go so far as to say your meters require less maintenance, but — tell me my friend, of what value is all this speed if the end result is a 4" Saunders valve, which is one of the slowest travelling types of valves known?

ELECTRONIC: Wait a minute now. Sure, I said, a "Saunders valve" but I also said, " it was a springless type."

REED: So what? The springless still have an air loading side on their diaphrams.

ELECTRONIC: That's just the point ole buddy. On this loading side of the valve, we installed a 3 to 1 reversing air relay. Now, for each 1" air change coming from the power relay, you also have a 3" air change on the loading side because the relay is tied into the controlled air line. Thus you have a very rapid movement of the valve stem. This relay, also helps keep the valve positioned when the live pressure changes because the relay senses any controlled air changes. Works something like a fudlock, you know

As this last outburst began to hit home, our Reed friend, slowly slipped away, muttering something to the effect that, "Well he still uses air somewhere in his control system."

I thought perhaps, this idea of the reversing relay, could be of value to other people, who have these types of valves regardless of the type of controls used.



WRITTEN ON A ROLL CHART

Pax Vobiscum

There's snow on the ground, The breeze far from balmy. On their musical round, Go the Salvation Army. The merchants are sinaina Glad songs in our ear, Cash registers ringing, What they like to hear. That music persistent Let's try to forget, It's ringing each one of us Deeper in debt. Deeper and deeper, Let's try to be gay. We'll never recover 'Till Valentine's day. Never recover Lets end This dull chatter. Demonstrate victory of Mind over matter. If we but think of Some things to delight us. Vanished are myriad Doubts that affright us. Imagine conditions Impossibly good, And we'll be as happy As babes in the wood. Let's wish one another The best of good cheer And hope we'll encounter, A trouble-free year. May your pens keep a-flowing, May your charts never stick, May all your mechanical Clocks sweetly tick, May your valves keep from plugging, Nor leak not, Nor bind, May dual accounting be Two of a kind, May hot thermocouples Stay constant and whole, May all of your roll-charts Right faithfully roll.

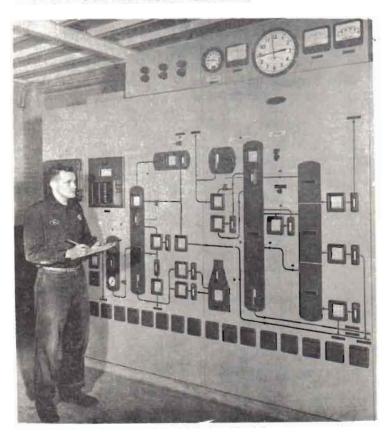
May cold things stay cold, And warmer ones warm. May warming devices Not need to alarm, May all your contractors Work ably and fast, With field alterations A thing of the past. May all of us witness The dawn of a day, When plants can be builded The "engineered" way, When we with emotions Supressed may not choke And drawings are less of A traaical ioke. May your instrument buyers Experience reap, And purchase for virtues Other than cheap. May that which vapour, Remain in its state, And never a mixture Pass orifice plate. May level and temperature, Pressure and flow, All draw perfect circles, The way they should go. And this more than anything, Heart of my heart, May product stay up At the top of the chart.

—H. Hobbs.

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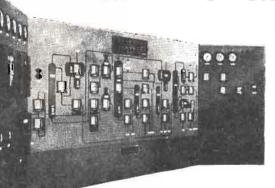
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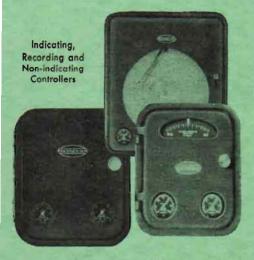
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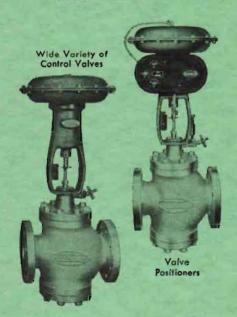
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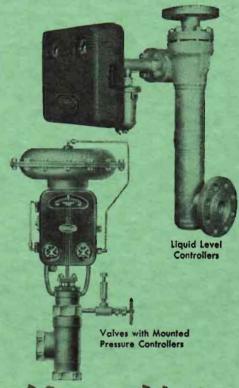
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