

A HISTORY of the CHICAGO SECTION

BY VAL WRIGHT

Midwest Editor of "Modern Plastics"; Member Chicago SPE

Why not form a Chicago Section of the Society of Plastics Engineers?

The merits of such a move formed the basis of an interested discussion by a group of Chicago plastics industry members during a Detroit trip in September, 1942. Included in the group were John Bachner, Chicago Molded Products Corporation; Robert Morehouse, Hoosier Cardinal Corp.; William Cullom, Celanese Plastics Corporation; Charles Henry, Chicago Die Mold Corp.; Win Cooper, Bakelite Corporation; Lee Bordner, Chicago Molded Products Corporation, and Jean Reinecke, Barnes & Reinecke, Inc.

These men reasoned that the time was propitious for formation of a Chicago Section. With the nation at war, the plastics industry was striving to adjust itself to material dislocations, a switch to wartime production, and many related problems. Never had there been a more urgent need for the utmost in cooperation and understanding among raw material suppliers, equipment manufacturers, molders, fabricators and other industry factors.

This preliminary discussion was not long in bearing fruit. Soon after the group had returned to Chicago, preliminary arrangements were completed with the SPE parent organization in Detroit and an organization meeting luncheon was held in a restaurant on Chicago's west side. Among those on hand for this meeting were Mr. Bachner, Mr. Henry, Mr. Cooper, Mr. Reinecke, W. M. Ellison, Richardson Co.; Bill Nelson, Sinko Tool & Mfg. Co., and J. M. Connors, western manager, Modern Plastics.

Robert Morehouse was elected first president of the Chicago section, with John Bachner as vice president, Jean Reinecke as second vice president and Bill Cullom as secretary-treasurer. William L. Hess, at that time with Sandee Mfg. Co., assumed leadership of the group's technical activities.

On October 2, 1942, the new chapter held its first meeting at the Merchandise Mart. This meeting was attended by approximately a dozen SPE members, plus other industry men interested in the activities of the new organization. By the time the next meeting took place, the group had taken in five new members and nine new applications had been received. Subsequent meetings witnessed a continued healthy growth in membership.

So rapid was the expansion of the section that within six months it was found desirable to switch the monthly meetings to the large main dining room of the Merchants' and Manufacturers' Club in the Mart. At the end of its second year, the section had developed a well-defined program and showed a treasury balance of approximately \$1,500.

At the fourth meeting of the group, the policy of guest speakers was inaugurated when Jack Cahb of Automatic Electric addressed the section, telling the SPE members about the founding of the Steel Research Society some 20 years earlier, and its growth to a membership of approximately 12,000 members.

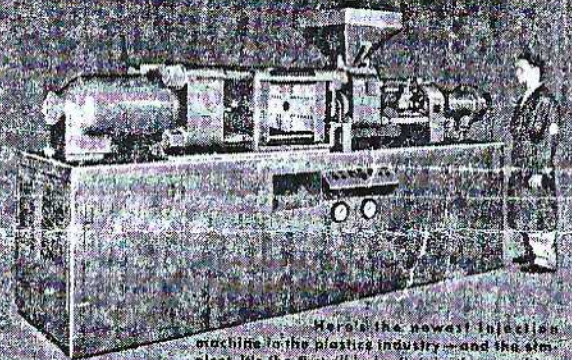
The first board of directors of the Chicago section was comprised of John Bachner, Win Cooper, Jean Reinecke, Charles Henry and Bill Nelson. Earliest members of the section to serve on the SPE national board of directors were John Bachner, Charles Henry and Bob Morehouse.

Although the Chicago section has come a long way since its inception, the same friendly spirit and determination to do a better job for the industry still prevail at the monthly meetings. Meetings are now held the first Tuesday of each month at the Merchants' and Manufacturers' Club, and it is the usual practice to have one or more guest speakers who discuss some technical or semi-technical subject of industry importance, such as new equipment, materials and techniques.

(Continued on Page 8)


FASTER • SIMPLER • QUIET!

The New H-P-M All-Hydraulic 4-oz. Injection Molding Machine



Here's the newest injection machine in the plastics industry—and the simplest. It's the first all-hydraulic injection machine with a one-pump system. This means there are less things to go wrong—fewer moving parts to wear or break—fewer adjustments. You'll have less maintenance.

Larger capacity H-P-M "All-Hydraulic" units, in standard sizes of 9, 16, and 32 ounces, are also available. Investigate now, while deliveries are favorable. For complete details on the new 4-oz. machine, write for Bulletin 4701.



All-Hydraulic

PLASTICS MOLDING PRESSES

COMPRESSION • INJECTION • TRANSFER • LAMINATING

THE HYDRAULIC PRESS MFG. COMPANY • Mount Gilead, Ohio, U. S. A.

1016 Marion Road)

CHICAGO HISTORY

(Continued from Page 7)

Merchandising and other general industry problems also come in for their share of attention. Attendance at the meetings of the Chicago section usually ranges between 75 and 150 members and guests.

The largest meeting ever staged by the Chicago section took place in February, 1943. This was a double-feature affair at which James Connors gave the section a prevue showing of the new Modern Plastics sound color film, "This Plastic Age." The turnout of several hundred for this meeting filled one of the main rooms of the club to overflowing. Showing of the film was followed by a banquet at which William B. Hoey explained the principles of jet molding.

Despite their intense interest in the technical side of the plastics industry, members of the Chicago section do not overlook the social angle. Each winter the section stages a special dinner meeting around the Holiday season to which the ladies are invited. The most recent of these meetings, held at the Edgewater Beach Hotel early in January, included dinner, dancing, and several acts of entertainment.

Another event to which Chicago section members look forward with pleasant anticipation is the annual summer golf outing at Elmhurst Country Club. At last summer's affair, about 85 members were on hand for golf and approximately 100 at the dinner. Jim Ferguson of Plaskon Division, Libby-Owens-Ford Glass Co., carried off top links honors and was presented the special acrylic trophy engraved with the names of previous winners.

As a member of the Chicago Technical Societies Council, the Chicago Section of SPE for the past three years has taken an active part in the annual Chicago Production Show, which was established during the wartime period as the Chicago War Production Show. Through the efforts of the Chicago section, panels of speakers have been lined up to bring the story of plastics in industry to the attention of these important annual conferences. For the 1948 show, which will be held in March, A. H. Voss of Western Electric Co. heads the committee arranging the panel of speakers. In these talks, which will be heard by many production men having no direct contact with the plastics field, an attempt will be made to give a clear picture of plastics' potential role in the production picture, without dwelling too much on technical aspects of interest only to plastics men. The Chicago section of SPE will also sponsor an exhibit of plastic products at the Production Show.

During its active five-year history, the Chicago section has been headed by the following men, who served as president in the order named: Bob Morehouse, Hoosier Cardinal Corp.; John Bachner, Chicago Molded Products Corporation; Win Cooper, Bakelite Corporation; L. H. Amrine, Imperial Molded Products Corp.; Jean Reinecke,

Barnes & Reinecke, Inc.; and Ed Woodman, Durez Plastics & Chemicals, Inc.

Officers recently elected for the current year include William L. Hess, Anesite Co., president; Ray Bauspies, Midwest Molding & Mfg. Co., vice president, and Bob Stephens, Kurz-Kasch, Inc., secretary-treasurer. L. H. Amrine is the newly elected national director from the Chicago section.

Members of the current board of directors include there who have just taken office—William Wright, Service Plastics; Lee Swift, Sandee Mfg. Co., and Bob Stephens, Kurz-Kasch, Inc.—and Win Cooper and Charles Dassing of Bakelite Corp.; Clarence McCormick, Superior Plastics Co.; Jimmy Johnston, Chicago Molded Products Corp.; William Hess, Anesite Co., and Ray Bauspies, Midwest Molding & Mfg. Co., all of whose terms carry over from the preceding year.

N. W. PENN. ELECTS OFFICERS JOINS ERIE ENGINEERING

By N. R. REYBURN

Northwest Pennsylvania Section of S. P. E. held its January meeting on January 12 at the Uthmann Chor. Eighteen members and guests were present.

The first order of business was the installation of new officers who were as follows: Directors: J. C. Stokes, W. R. Byrd, J. A. Loranger (for three-year term) and C. W. Kuffner (to fill out unexpired term of Kenneth Rouzer). National Directors: P. C. Roche. President for 1948: N. R. Reyburn; Vice-president: E. H. Roberts; Secretary, J. A. Loranger; Treasurer, P. C. Roche.

President Paul Roche discussed the annual technical conference and advised attendance of as many members as could be there as well as the taking of space for exhibition. Announcement was also made that the Northwest Pennsylvania Section had decided to join the Erie Engineering Society Council with Paul Roche as temporary representative. Mr. Roche thanked the retiring directors, officers, committee chairman and committeemen for their co-operation in building a bigger and better S. P. E. during 1947. He also announced a 56% membership increase for the year.

Following this, the speaker of the evening, Mr. F. J. Donahue of the Monsanto Chemical Company talked on properties of thermo setting plastic. His talk was a well organized and complete discussion of the raw material manufacturing, molding, and application of the phenolic molding compound.

Mr. Donahue's discussion on the effects of moisture in phenolic compounds was of particular interest in connection with the current method of preheating by steam versus high frequency.

Following his talk a very popular entertainment program was put on by the Choristers of the Uthmann Chor who presented a half dozen well chosen and excellently sung numbers for the entertainment of the Plastics group.

(Continued on Page 19)