

FEB 59

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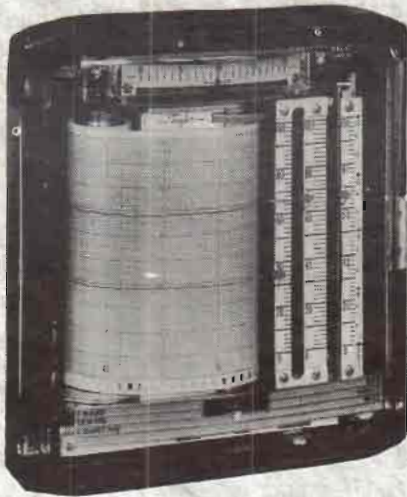


SARNIA SECTION



Monthly Bulletin

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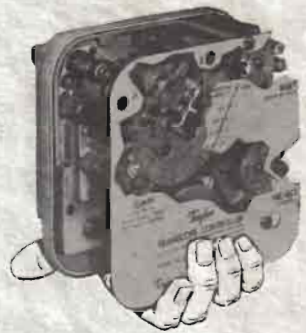


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The Instrument Society of America

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 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.

Executive Officers for the 1958-59 season are:

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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.

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

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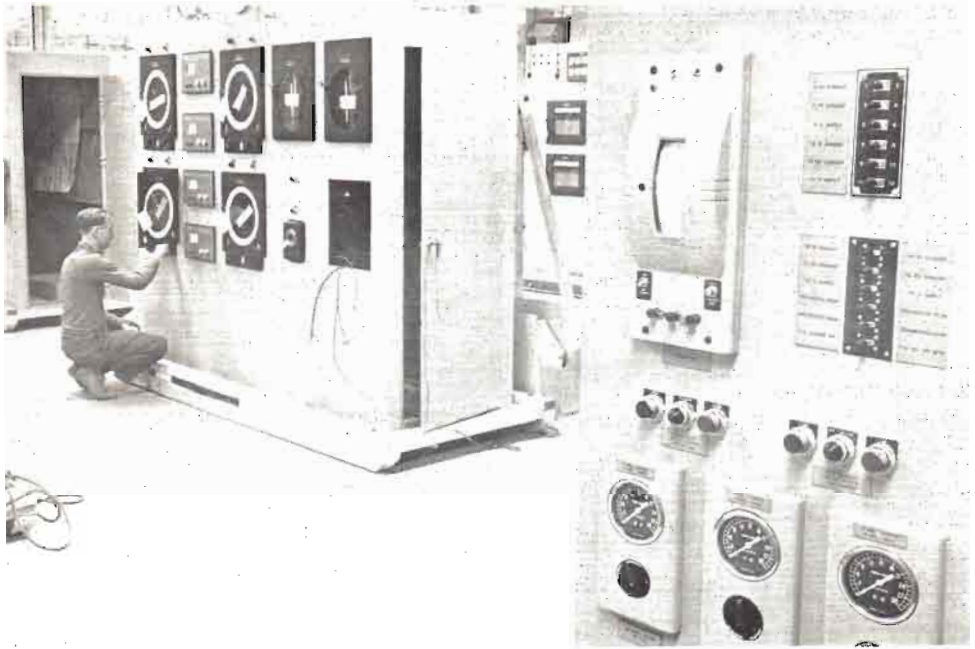
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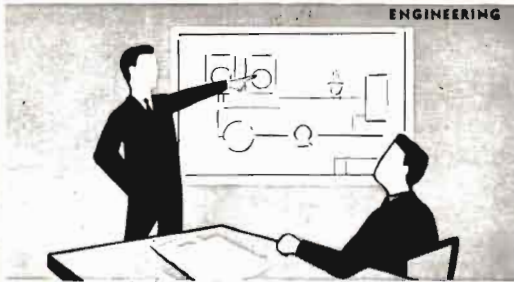
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The "BULLETIN"

VOLUME 8: No. 6

FEBRUARY 1959

JANUARY MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the Sarnia Section, Instrument Society of America, was held on Monday, January 26th, at our usual meeting-place, the Vendome Hotel. The meeting was attended by about two dozen members and friends, who, braved inclement weather and perilous road conditions so to do.

Our Program Chairman, Mr. Bob Connell, who survived an epic series of misadventures earlier in the evening, introduced the speaker. This was Mr. Bob Raycroft, Supervisor of Honeywell's Nuclear Project in Canada.

As was previously announced, Mr. Raycroft chose as his topic "PH, Conductivity and Redox". These are matters of great interest to we, who must maintain such installations. Sometimes, we get so interested in the practical problems of measurement and control of these properties, that we forget the science behind them and the chemical actions that make such measurement possible. Mr. Raycroft toured the theoretical side of these somewhat mysterious fields, and I am sure that the excursion did his listeners a lot of good. I enjoyed very much having these matters reviewed, and having their inter-relationship so clearly defined. We appreciate very much the preparation that has evidently gone into the organizing of this lecture.

Mr. John Francis, Regional Manager of the Honeywell Service Department, then took the floor with a description and demonstration of the Beckman, Model "W", PH indicator. This seems to be a very superior instrument, and a vast improvement over some of the (groan) earlier models. This instrument has overcome certain corrosion and dampness problems by "potting" the pre-amplifier assembly. I suggest that this system be extended to include the entire instrument so that it may better endure severe climatic conditions.

Mr. Francis also demonstrated that a certain carbonated beverage of great popular appeal gives, at room temperature, a PH reading of less than five. As shrewd a blow struck against the cause of prohibition as we've seen in many a year. Clever indeed, John, but we were converted long ago.

Our thanks to Honeywell Controls, Mr. Raycroft, Mr. Francis and to our genial host Mr. Gord MacDonald for an entertaining and enlightening evening.

EDITOR'S NOTES

In this "Bulletin" for February, 1959, we have wrung contributions from our usual faithful sources, Mike Hicks, and Bill Kirk, who has defined an Instrument Man in a manner I find agreeably true. Bill tries to tell me once in a while, that he has no more topics of general interest that he feels like writing about. At such times he may, instead, attack some irritating aspect of our work. I agree thoroughly with this attitude, for there is much good derived from the exposure of thoughtlessness and ignorance.

Our February meeting looks like a good one. Anyone who has ever had a dryer steam-coil break and flood the air system will be sure to attend.

One more reminder about the section election. Come on candidates, give the thing a try.

* * *

It has been said that the aim of Education
should be to teach us how to think rather
than what to think.

—contributed by Jack Graham

* * *

INSTRUMENTS ARE MY LINE

Have you ever noticed how our flattering editor can build you up so he will squeeze yet another article for his bulletin. This is an old yet forgotten trait of a real Instrument Mechanic, always thinking of ways and means of getting a job done.

This of course leads into my pet topic for **one** more article, and that is—"What Is The Most Primary Factor of a Good Instrument Mechanic?" Is it an ability that is fast becoming overshadowed by the present day theme of more education, better labour unions etc?

For those of you who have read this far, you are apt to say—Wait a minute, this is a pretty drastic statement just made. Is it? Let me illustrate. Let us start with the educated Engineer—a man who spent several years becoming an expert in his field, for example Electrical Engineering. He would not dream of pouring pails of water on his car engine, then expect it to start. Why? Because he knows that the greatest evil

of electricity is moisture, so naturally the automobile's ignition system would short out in numerous places. Yet this same man will design a process loop where the electronic transmitter is litterly drenched in moisture.

On the other hand, take for example the Process Operator. If a light went out in his home he does not call the Hydro Company to say that a light is out in his home. He does the most logical thing and replaces the bulb. Now this same fellow, when confronted with a complex looking panel, and an alarm or running light goes out, gets all flustered, calls the Instrument man to come right away. The Instrument man checks and replaces the defective bulb.

What is wrong with these people, What separates them from the better of their own trade. They are simply not thinking. Why? Because they think that with the present day protections offered them they do not need to?

I am not inferring that all Engineers or Process people are like those I have illustrated, but I am saying that a successful person is one who thinks for himself and because of the nature of Instrument work, an Instrument man has to think to be a really successful mechanic. It is this element that I feel separates the Instrument Trade from all others.

* * *

WHITHER THE SARNIA SECTION?

One of the advantages or disadvantages depending on how you look at it, of being President of anything is the amount of mail which one receives. Most of it comes from the National Office but some of it comes from various other sections. Unfortunately wherever it comes from, I find it most depressing. Primarily I am depressed because other sections always seem to do so much better than ours. They run successful dinners and dances attended by literally hundreds of people (well 100 anyway!!!). They have committees organized to do everything and the whole organization never seems to be short of willing helpers to do anything.

Just when I am recovering from this blow the mail arrives from National Office who always proceed to deal with Sarnia as though it were the Chicago or Los Angeles section, which unfortunately it is not. This may not be apparent to them from their lofty perch but from a worm's eye view it certainly is. It does not seem to be realized that Sarnia is a small town. This is not apparent from I.S.A. statistics since we regularly appear with about 50-60 members whilst Chicago and Los Angeles have two or three

hundred. Apparently then, Sarnia must be about one-quarter the size of Chicago. Mr. Kushnick, I have news for you!! Sarnia is a city of some 50,000 souls which means that on a per capita basis we should have something like one or two members!! Even if one makes allowance for our concentration of industry we can only increase that to maybe 10 or 12, which if you think about it is about the number of really active members that we have.

How then did we manage to inveigle the 40 or 50 other people into it? In days gone by a lot of our members were working mechanics but lets be brutally honest, in this day and age the Society neither want them, (except for their money,) nor does it cater to them. Mind you I don't blame the Society for this completely, it has been brought on, to a large extent by the mechanic's indifference to the Society in the first place and this indifference of the companies employing them and by their own unions. Just think about it. What incentive other than that of a job well done is there for a mechanic to join the Society. His education is looked after by the Company and his financial rewards and promotions are "guarded" by his union. Why should he help himself when an instrument mechanic is paid just the same as an insulator or a pipefitter?

So we are left with the engineers and others and on looking around in Sarnia area there cannot be more than 30 persons other than mechanics who by any stretch of the imagination meet the qualifications for membership which are that "(they be) interested in advancing the arts and sciences related to the theory, design, manufacture and use of instruments and controls in various sciences and technologies". This seems to me to be too small a foundation to build a section on, particularly since according to National Office we are meant to function with about 10 assorted committees and the like.

With this in mind the executive at its last meeting seriously discussed the future or lack of it of the Sarnia Section and I would ask you to do the same. Where do we go from here? The Vice-President, I gather, is writing you a further blurb related to this subject and I would ask you to please read it and study it as it is of vital concern to the Sarnia Section.

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

One of the newer developments in the pneumatic field is the heatless dryer. This dryer, as the name implies, will dry instrument air and other gases to a very low dew point and will regenerate the dessicant without using externally provided heat. This heat is usually provided by electric or steam coils inside of the dessicant chambers.

At our February 23rd meeting, we will have an opportunity to hear a discussion of this dryer, and to see a model in actual operation. The guest speaker will be Mr. E. M. Feeley, vice president of sales, Trinity Equipment Corporation of Cortland, New York. The Trinity Corporation have been one of the leading manufacturers of gas drying equipment for a number of years.

This will be the first meeting at which we have been able to see a demonstration. The topic is timely and interesting.

Arrangements are under way to obtain the Texas Company film "Hydraulics" for this meeting. This will be a program which is well worth taking in. (P.S. Attendance at our January meeting was 23.)

—B. Connell.

MEETING NOTICE

DATE: FEBRUARY 23, 1959

PLACE: VENDOME HOTEL

TOPIC: **HEATLESS DRYERS — Their Principles and Design**

SPEAKER: **MR. E. M. FEELEY**
Vice President of Sales
Trinity Equipment Corporation

"HYDRAULICS"
Texas Company sound-colour production

TIME: 8.00 P.M.

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WRITTEN ON A ROLL CHART**The Lorelei**

As the world wags on its timeless way,
We reap content from day to day,
We live in our rut and toil and spin,
And minor malice we take with a grin,
We seek no growth of power or pelf,
And feel at times, quite smug with ourself.
Quite pleased, indeed, to have made the grade,
And settled in such an attractive trade,
Fraught with interest and not too hard,
Though heedful of whistle, and time-clock-card.
Wed to the old lunch-pail and thermos,
And cutting winds on our epidermis,
And a scant half-hour in which to manage,
The ever-present sardine sandwich.
And as we whirl in our limited orbit,
We may dodge trouble, we may absorb it,
And life goes on. and all-in-all,
We feel that ours is fair and full.
Yes, full and fair our life goes on,
But only full by com-par-is-on,
We do live grander, we do drink deeper,
By contrast with a Hindu sweeper,
Our raiment richer than many a coolie,
Our prospects brighter than poor Tom Dooley,
Our jobs may not not completely suit,
But they **are** ahead of a paper-route.
Now would you believe, in this self- same trade,
There are **others** who really have it made?
Who seem immune to toil and spinning,
Are never losing, always winning,
Who rise each morn at the stroke of ten,
Or maybe just flake out again,
And while we ply the hot-steam-hose,
They breakfast, smelling like a rose,
And while we grease the sticking valve,
Their two-hour lunch begins at twelve,
And while we cure a flow-recorder,
The barman pours their lavish order.

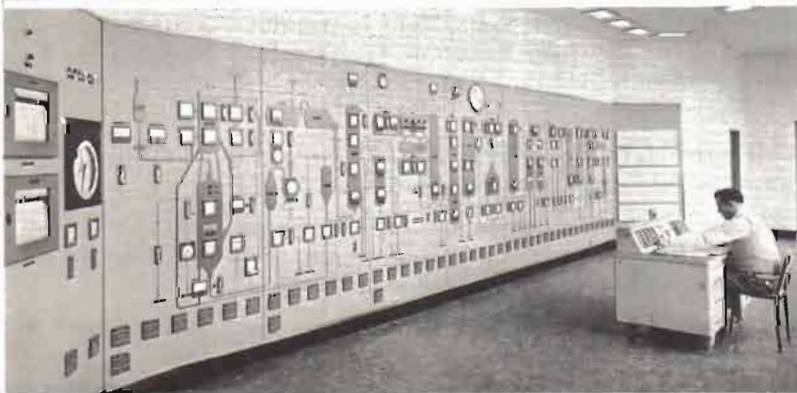
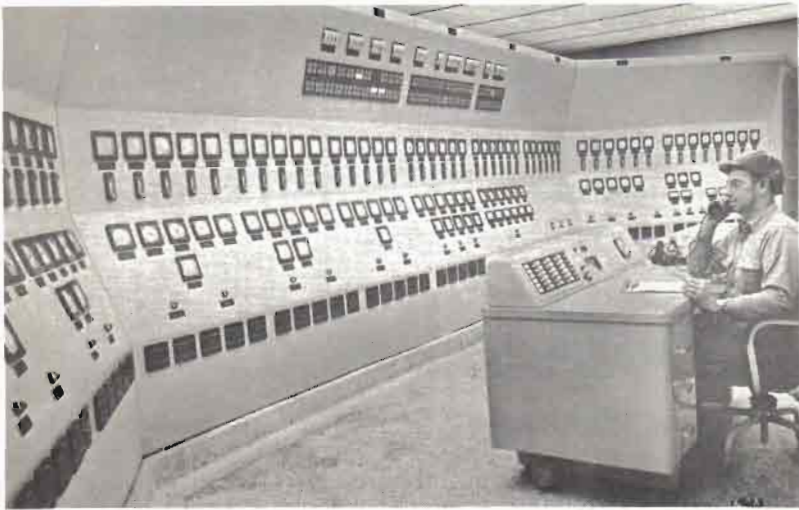
And e'en at night when we're replete,
And aim to rest our aching feet,
Why life for them has just begun,
As they gaily order another one,
And the music swells, and the dancing girls,
(At the prospect, friend, my mind just whirls,)
Go tripping, nimble and elastic,
Through many a lithesome light-fantastic.
Now who, (you say) just who are these?
That live like Senators or thieves?
I know them all, I know them well,
But my lips are sealed, I shall not tell,
Because, next year, I may amount,
To an entry in their expense-account.

— H. Hobbs

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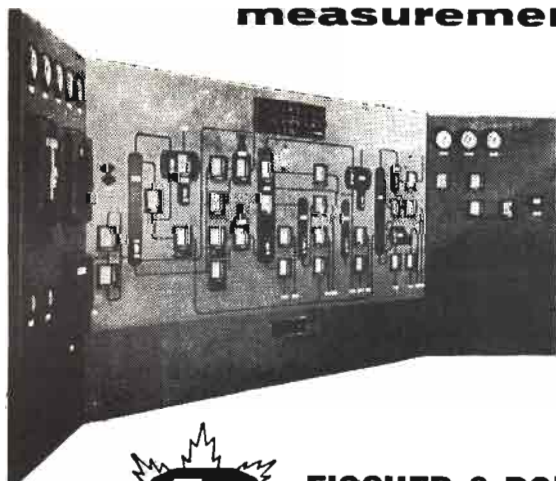
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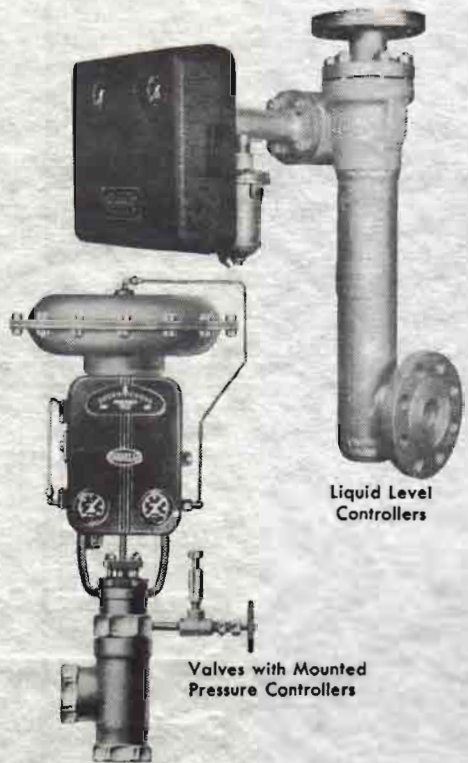
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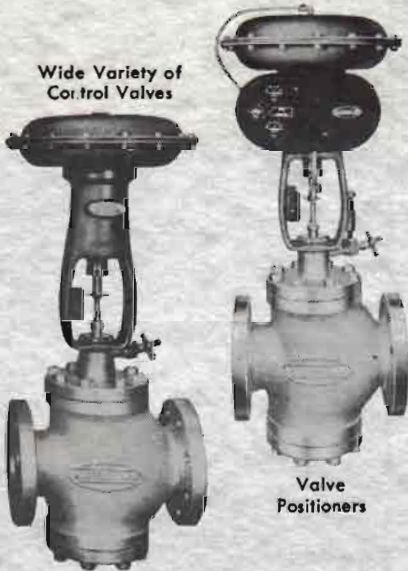


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