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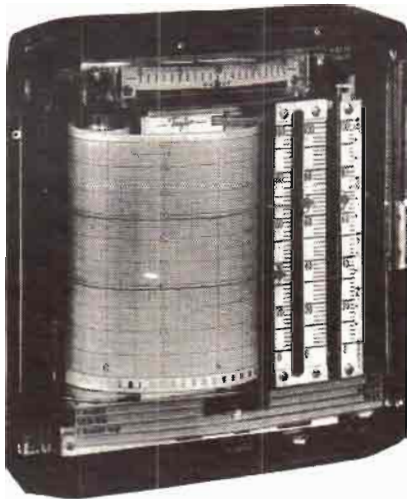


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Monthly Bulletin

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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 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 Vendame 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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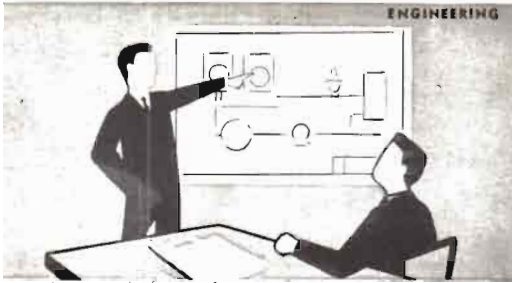
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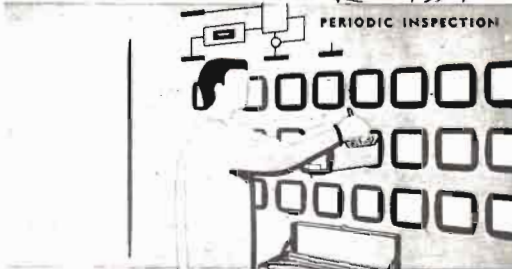
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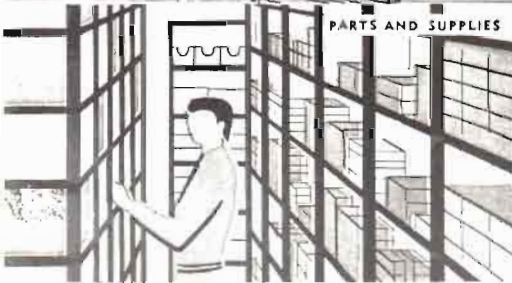
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The "BULLETIN"

VOLUME 8: No. 5

JANUARY 1959

EDITOR'S NOTES

In this, our first issue of the new year, we feature contributions from some of our most reliable sources. We have an article from our President, Mike Hicks, who strikes a shrewd blow at several well-deserving recipients. I feel that he has neglected to pummel a favourite dislike of mine, the ever-growing, chain-letter, giant expandable monster, the often unnecessary greeting-card. I feel sympathy for that large segment of the population, who live in annual fear that they will get a card from someone who is not on their own ever-enlarging list. Where will it end?

Bob Connell has given us a good summary of our coming meeting and has issued a timely warning to our members to show some interest in taking office in this section. If the membership wishes, that our future be as successful as our past, a little activity from the hitherto-somnolent majority is essential. Think it over, please. This work calls for little effort, and can be very rewarding.

We are grateful, also, to Jack Graham, whose effort to add something different to our magazine is most acceptable. Keep it up!

* * *

HE IS A MAN

He has achieved success who has lived well, laughed often,
and loved much;
Who has gained the respect of intelligent men
And the love of little children;
Who has filled his niche and accomplished his task;
Who has left the world better than he found it,
Whither by an improved poppy, a perfect poem or
A rescued soul;
Who has never lacked appreciation of earth's beauty or
Failed to express it;
Who has always looked for the best in others, and
Given the best he had;
Whose life is an inspiration,
Whose memory a benediction.
He is a man.

—Submitted by J. R. Graham.

WHY I DISLIKE CHRISTMAS

By Mike Hicks

After a lot of thought and consideration I have finally concluded that I dislike Christmas. This decision has not been arrived at lightly since as far as I can ascertain anyone who dislikes Christmas is in the same class as dog haters, communists and sex perverts. But regretfully I have come to this decision and will try to put my reasons in writing. Now I realize I am queer. People consider me strange because I don't clutter up my living room with a great piece of green foliage which may be of use to the Abitibi Pulp and Paper Company but certainly is only a fire hazard in an ordinary home. And what's more, as far as I can find out mine is the only house on my street not lit up like the Peace Tower.

Please do not misunderstand me now, I have nothing against the basic spiritual idea of Christmas nor against the temporal celebration of it as apparently practiced in Dicken's day. Quite frankly, however, I am completely sickened by the commercial exploitation of the season and the hypocrisy that goes with it in this day and age. The attitude which seems to be prevalent is that anyone who is not wild with joy to hear Silent Night played over and over again for four hours at a stretch must be crazy. Lest anyone think that this is an exaggeration, let them stand outside one of the Chemical Valley's large plants from seven to eleven p.m. on any day before Christmas. I had the misfortune to be within earshot of this plant for such a period and what I would have liked to do with the loud speakers is both unprintable and impossible. My heart went out to the poor souls who live in the area. I can only conclude that they are more tolerant than I.

To return to my main argument again, I am not against Christmas for children. For them it is a wonderful time which should certainly be enjoyed to the full. But, to be told by various merchants that it is my bounden duty to give my wife something which she doesn't really want and I cannot really afford galls me no end, particularly when I can buy the same thing two weeks after Christmas for approximately two-thirds the price. We are assured that all this giving makes folks happy. In practice I know from bitter experience that many a family row has been caused by both giving and receiving presents. The receiver feels duty bound to give one next year at least if not this and he maybe can't afford it or doesn't want to. The giver too would not be human if he did not compare price tags. If people are so generous, let them give their money to charity where it will do far more good.

We are assured that downtown is decorated for the sheer love of it, baloney! It is done purely and simply to stimulate trade and profit for the

merchants who then have the audacity to ask and expect the poor, long-suffering taxpayer to foot the bill. If they wish to do it, well and good, but I fail to see why I should be asked to pay one cent towards it.

To get a little nearer to home, there comes the question of hand shaking and wishing people a Merry Christmas. To be sure, some people do that because they like doing it and actually feel full of goodwill towards men. But from conversations with my fellow beings I must conclude that they are in a minority. Certainly for myself I cannot help but feel that when some guy whom I know could cheerfully see me flattened by a truck comes and pumps my hand and wishes me a happy Christmas and what's more is hurt if I don't do the same to him, it is merely hypocrisy. Far better he called me a S.O.B. and have done with it or if he wishes to be polite which surely the majority of people do, just ignore me.

But Christmas is over now and my blood pressure is falling slowly back to normal and as other folk get back to their normal miserable work-a-day selves I suppose I should forget it.

I have looked over some of my literary masterpieces for the past year and have decided that strangers who do not know me must have concluded that I am a jaundiced, bitter soul who criticizes everything and finds good in nothing. I have therefore resolved that this is my last gripe for the next six months. From here on in I shall be a constructive and pleasant person.

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PROGRAM CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

By Bob Connell

The subject selected for discussion at our January meeting is one on which anyone's thinking can get hazy unless he is in constant association with it. This is the somewhat involved matter of pH, and its near relations, conductivity and redox. It does us good to sort out these three measurements and their peculiar system of units occasionally, and get them all into their proper places in our minds.

Our guest speaker will be representing Honeywell Controls Limited, and will have an extensive background on this subject. He will be Mr. Jim Raycroft, supervisor of Honeywell's nuclear project in Canada. Also present to assist with the answering of questions will be Mr. John Francis, regional manager of the Honeywell service department. We will be well provided with experts for the discussion, and it promises to be a fine meeting.

Our meetings for January through April will be held at the Vendome Hotel, as our efforts to secure space at the Y.M.-Y.W.C.A. have been unsuccessful. . Please note this.

We have coming up at future meetings this year discussions on other instrument topics of personal interest to us. One of the newest developments in the instrument field is the air and gas dessicant dryer which regenerates without the use of heat. The heatless dryer is now being manufactured by the Trinity Equipment Corporation, and their Vice President of sales, Mr. E. M. Feeley, will describe this new dryer at our February meeting. We are getting our usual cooperation from the Customs people, and Mr. Feeley will be permitted to bring with him a working model of the dryer to demonstrate the principles involved.

March, at the moment, is an open date. In April, however, our guest speaker will be the chief instrument engineer of the Fluor Corporation of Los Angeles, Mr. Glen Gallagher. We are very pleased to have been able to arrange with Glen to come to one of our meetings, as he is acknowledged to be an authority on the Foxboro differential vapour pressure cell as it is applied to the control of fractionating columns. This instrument will be the basis of his talk at our April meeting.

Finally, our wind-up dinner meeting in May, at which there will be numerous distinguished guests, will have as its topic electronic instrumentation, what it has to offer to the process industries, and what problems are likely to accompany it into our plants. This will be a subject of considerable interest to our supervisors.

At this point, your program chairman will risk a venture into one facet of our activities which is normally considered to be none of his business. This concerns our section executive. We are still a few months away from election time, but it is nevertheless not premature to make mention of a problem which we are going to have to face. At the end of our 1958-59 activities president Mike Hicks' term of office will end, and the president's position will be open. Our current vice president Curt McDonald will not be available for nomination as he has been transferred out of the Imperial Oil Engineering Division instrumentation group and is no longer engaged in instrument work. Your present treasurer, and program chairman, are completing their second consecutive years in their respective posts, and desire to give up their duties at the end of this term of office.

All this means that there are going to be quite a few open positions on the executive, and these will have to be filled from the fifty or so of our members who live in Sarnia or the immediate area. If these posts are not filled, then we will have no executive, no programs, and a dead section.

It is unfortunate that the offices of president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer sometimes are taken to be synonymous with a requirement for a great deal of ability, self-confidence, and a willingness to give up a lot of one's time. This is one point on which we should all have the right perspective. As far as our local section of the ISA is concerned, our elected executive consists of a president who presides at an executive meeting once a month and arranges for people to take care of the few jobs which have to be done to keep the section operating, a vice-president who acts in the president's capacity if the president happens to be unable to act, a secretary who keeps a few records of our actions and decisions and writes the occasional letter on our behalf, and a treasurer who keeps track of our money.

As far as time is concerned, the president will likely call an executive meeting once a month to keep track of what is going on. Under the present system however, the executive meeting is held at the regular meeting place during the hour preceeding the regular meeting. This means that members of the executive do not have to give up any more of their personal time than an ordinary member who comes to the monthly meetings regularly.

In the next month or so, this section is going to need volunteers for the executive positions. Are you willing to accept a small job to keep our section of the ISA in operation?

MEETING NOTICE

DATE: JANUARY 26, 1959

PLACE: VENDOME HOTEL

TOPIC: **pH, CONDUCTIVITY AND REDOX.**

SPEAKER: **MR. JIM RAYCROFT**
Supervisor of Honeywell's Nuclear Project in Canada

Also present will be Mr. John Francis,
Regional Manager of the Honeywell Service Department.

TIME: 8.00 O'CLOCK

COME AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS.

EDUCATION IS A MANY-SPLENDURED THING

As time goes gaily skipping by, in manner far from humorous,

More dim because my watering eye, my graying hairs more numerous.

And one severe omission hastens me more gray and dimmer,

And that is that no one has wrote a good Process Man's Primer.

Now certain facts are obvious, and certain things stand out,

But no one really heeds them, no matter how we shout.

Our voices can quite disappear, our visages turn blue,

Yet every thing we warn against appears as something new.

In winter, water freezes, this is accepted fact,

Yet no one quite believes it until their pipes are cracked.

Fact two, pneumatic instruments work best in well-dried air,

And this explains my lagging step and salt and pepper hair.

So please ye high authorities, throw this poor dog a bone,

And issue a directive from your great exalted throne.

Just send one simple statement, and then we'll have it made,

The freezing-point of water is now zero, centigrade.

—H. Hobbs.

WRITTEN ON A ROLL CHART — EN GARDE!

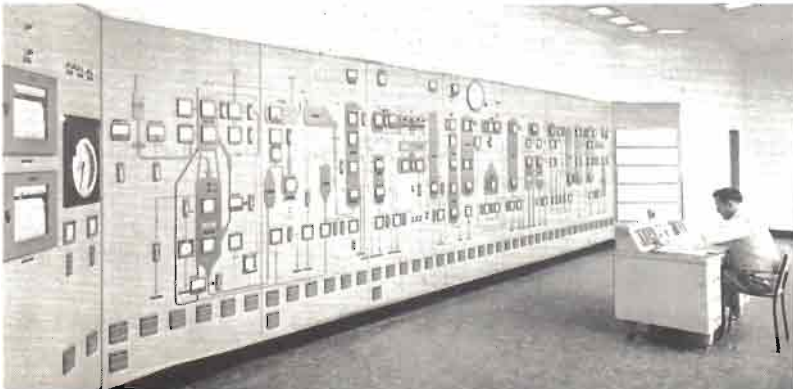
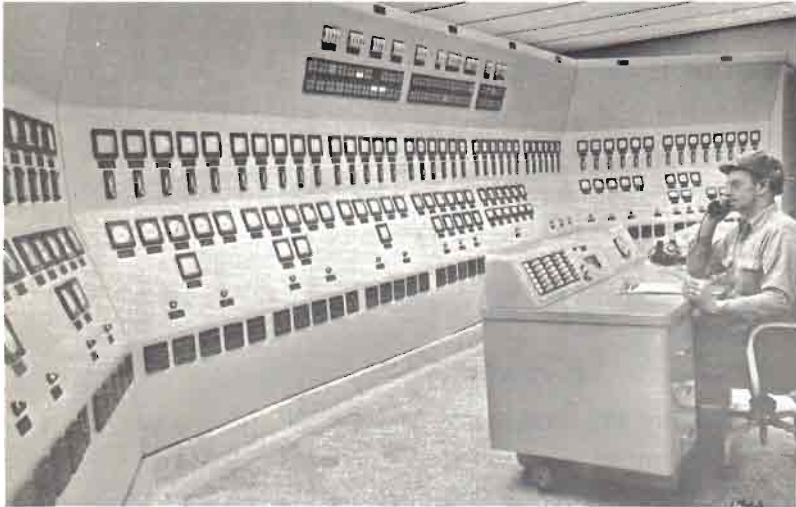
Now some deplore the passing of the good, five-cent
cigar,
While others wail the absence of the horse-drawn
trolley-car,
And our own Section President, with fiercely dripping
pen,
Would like to see a non-commercial Christmas once
again.
And I agree, most heartily, I'll shout until I'm hoarse,
That his most worthy sentiments I thoroughly endorse
And cheer this Don Quixote on 'till opposition wilts
As at these hoary windmills he so gloriously tilts.
Down with the money-changers, avaunt the pharisees,
Revive a true good-fellowship without the aid of these
Good-will should not be seasonal, nor love a neon light,
Nor generous feelings based upon what merchants say is
right,
Heed not the hucksters' clarion-call, though it be sweet
and clear,
Let not hypnotic music fall upon receptive ear,
Be generous, but not foolish, is what I want to say,
The poor are just as hungry upon St. Swithin's day,
And all about the Ides of March the wind blows bitter-
cold,
And wanton waste won't rescue the destitute and old.

—H. Hobbs.

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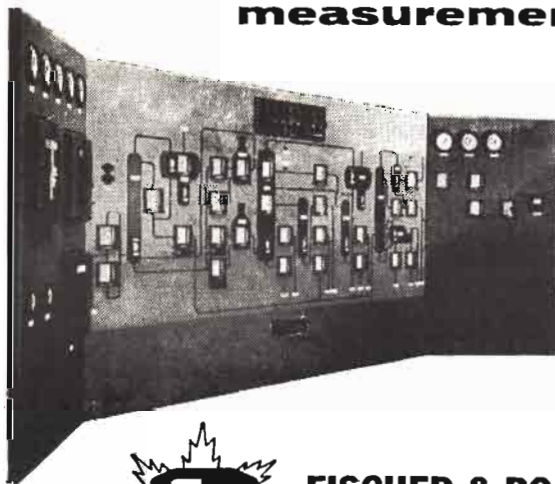
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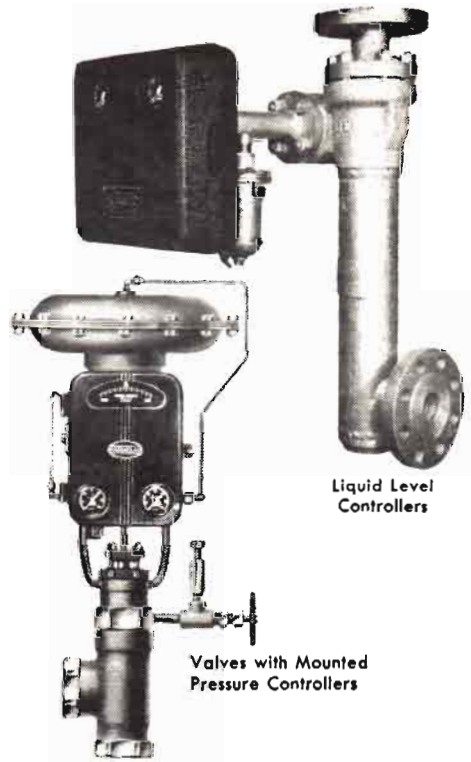
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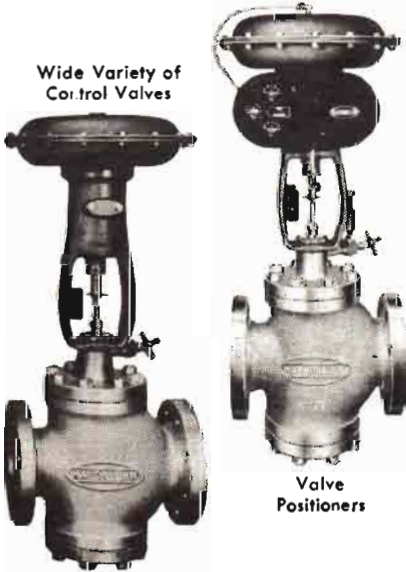
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