

MAY 58

INSTRUMENT  
SOCIETY of  
AMERICA

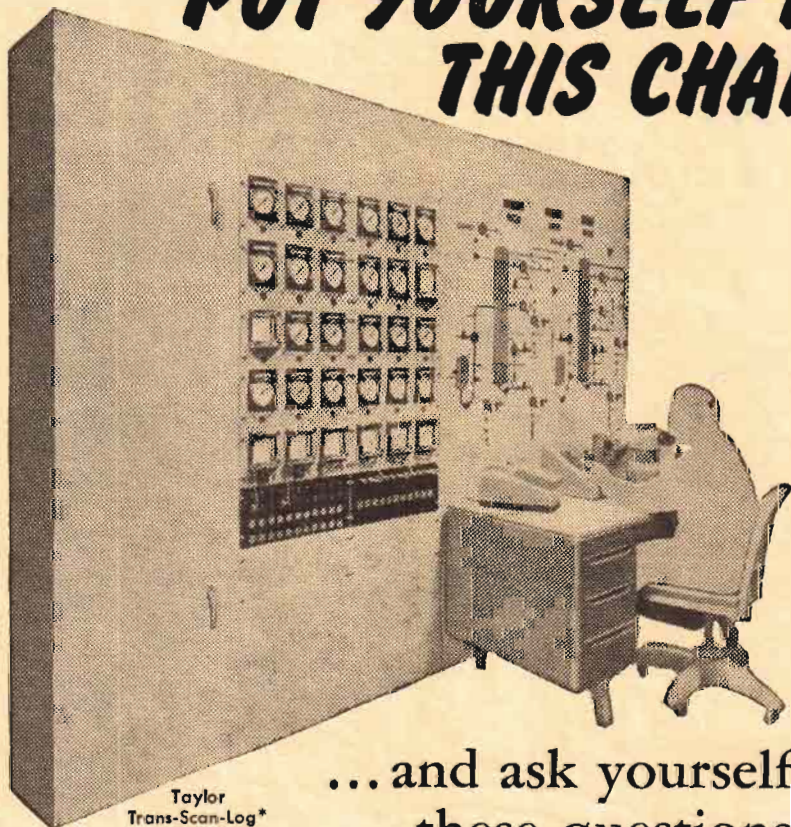


SARNIA SECTION



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 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 1957-58 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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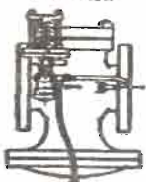
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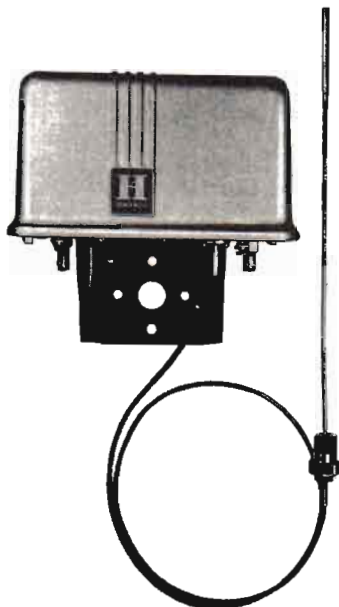
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# The "BULLETIN"

VOLUME 7: No. 9

MAY, 1958

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## EDITOR'S NOTES

In this the final issue of the year, we carry the notice of the annual dinner meeting. This notice was mailed early this month, to every member, so, at the risk of being redundant, we have inserted it as a last minute reminder.

We wish, at this time, to thank our faithful contributors, who responded so well to keep the "BULLETIN" full of interesting material. Their efforts made the job of Editor an easy one.

Thanks, also, to our Advertisers for their splendid support and to Ed Brown, who served as Advertising Manager.

We wish on behalf of the Executive, all our members and friends, a happy and prosperous summer.

—H. Hobbs.

\* \* \*

## APRIL MEETING

The April meeting of the Sarnia Section I.S.A. was held at 8.00 p.m., Monday, April 28, in the Vendome Hotel. About 30 members were in attendance. The meeting opened with the showing of a film "Electronics for Accounting and Business." The film was very apt in that its subject "Digital Computers" fitted in very nicely with the speaker's topic and our thanks are due to the Company for providing it.

The annual election of officers was then held. The election is covered elsewhere in the bulletin but certainly no notes of the meeting would be complete without mentioning it.

The speaker was Mr. Larry Keenan of the Beckman Corporation who spoke most ably on the subject of "Data Presentation" in general and the Beckman model 112 in particular. The field is certainly a fascinating one and according to the speaker is a growing one. The problem seems to be that as far as the process industries are concerned, the tools are available but as yet very few people seem to be able to use them. Certainly data presentation systems are available which will do more than is required of them at the present moment and the difficulty seems to occur in justifying the admittedly very large capital outlay to management. The writer was left with the feeling that the only way a medium size company could possibly justify the expense is on the grounds that "we'll never know until we try one".

Our thanks are due to Mr. Keenan and to the Beckman Corporation for a very stimulating talk. Personally, it left the writer with a slight inferiority complex in that he felt somewhat appalled at his lack of imagination and his ability to justify it.

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## THE ELECTION

As mentioned elsewhere the annual election for section officers was held at the regular monthly meeting. I trust the very able speaker will not feel slighted when I say that for me at any rate they represented the highlight of the evening. My reasons for this are twofold. Certainly, I felt very honoured at the thought of having been elected to the office of president but primarily I was delighted at having a "genuine Bedouin" election take place. Certainly it was the first to my knowledge and close questioning of certain elder statesmen disclosed that it was quite possibly the first in ten or twelve years. What is more, in one case the election results were so close that the President had to cast a tie-breaking vote!

Those elected were:

President — Mike Hicks  
 Vice President — Don Vetter  
 Secretary — Marlo Fournier  
 Treasurer — George Westerburg

A sincere vote of thanks is due to those who ran for office and were not elected. Please don't be disheartened and try again next year.

An equally sincere vote of thanks is due to the nominating committee that ran the election, namely, Curt MacDonald, Had Cole and Dick Rose. Without their efforts and keenness the election would not have taken place and I feel that their spirit is an object lesson to us all on what can be done if you try. Certainly a lot of apologies are due to them for the cynics, and I definitely include myself in that category, who shook their heads sadly and said an election was not possible.

The election certainly augers well for the new year and I only hope it will close on an equally pleasant note.

\* \* \*

## INSTRUMENTS ARE MY LINE

By E. W. Kirk

This month I am going to deviate somewhat for two reasons:

1. I overdid it last month by doing two articles.
2. This being the last issue, I can taper off:

So instead of something serious, I thought a bit of humour might fit in.

This happened a while ago when I was assigned to clean up the shop. I was doing alright until the boss appeared. Hey! Where are you taking that? He asked. To the junk pile, I said. It is only some scrap iron, tin clippings, chunks of wire, plus a few broken Taylor capilaries. Don't throw those out, the boss says, Taylor will give us a rebate on these scraps. You had better crate this and have it shipped back to Taylor. This I did and a few days later we received a large crate of shiny transaire transmitters.



Who ordered this? Inquired the boss. No one knew, but inside a note explained all. It went something like this.

Received from you a large crate of instrument parts. We had our entire staff working 24 hours a day to rebuild them for you. It was the toughest job we ever tackled, but don't worry, we got them working like new. Only one thing! Will you please ship the next bunch before they get in such dilapidated condition?

\* \* \*

### THE CAMEL DRIVERS

A long time ago in a far-off desert land, there was a small but very prosperous nation. The people of this nation were active in commerce and in industry, and business was flourishing and expanding at a rate most wondrous to behold.

Much of the commerce of this small nation depended upon trade with other nations. Many of the goods which were traded between this nation and its neighbours were carried overland by trains of camels. This necessitated, of course, that trained camel drivers be available to conduct the caravans safely over the overland routes.

As the business of this nation flourished and expanded, the need for camel trains grew, and with it the need for camel train drivers. The profession of camel driver consequently became one of distinction, and many young men aspired to belong to it. The more established camel drivers were a relatively progressive lot. They decided that it would be in their best interests to form an Association of Camel Drivers. This group would meet together at intervals, and would discuss problems related to camel driving. It was hoped that through their associations together, and the discussions which were held, all of the members would be able to increase their skill and knowledge of camel driving.

The younger camel drivers, who were relatively new in this trade, were very interested in supporting the Association, and in attending its meetings. They felt that by so doing they would help themselves to become first class camel drivers in the shortest possible length of time. For to become a first class camel driver, of course, would mean many more drachmas in the goat-skin purse to take home each Friday night.

Now this Association required of its members a small number of drachmas annually in order to pay for the cost of its operations. Their monthly publication, their meeting house, their correspondence, and other incidentals all had to be paid for. In the beginning, however, this levy was considered to be just by the younger members of the group, or so it seemed.

So in the beginning, the Association of Camel Drivers flourished. Great throngs of camel drivers of varying experience and ability came to the meetings to hear the discussions. The elder camel drivers, who were officers of the Association, proudly smiled and praised one another for the fine job that they were doing. Leading camel drivers from other parts who had come to address the groups were greatly pleased by the numbers who attended, and the interest they displayed.

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November 25—Gas Chromatography

January 27—Radio-Isotopes

February 24—Electro-Hydraulic Valve Operators

March 24—Instrument Panels

April 28—Data Logging

Glancing through this list, one gets the impression that we did a fair job of covering the instrumentation field. The speakers who discussed these topics for us certainly had the best of qualifications. In addition, we were able to obtain some very fine films which themselves were high in information and educational value.

Despite the general approval which the programs received from our membership, we would not be honest if we were to claim that this season's meetings were an unqualified success. Attendance for the most part was relatively poor. Most of the meetings were attended by between twenty and thirty members, which is about one third to one half of our potential. This means that, on the average, each Sarnia member turned out to hear only three of the seven speakers.

One aspect of living these days which everyone seems to agree upon, is that it is getting harder and harder to find time to do everything that we should be doing. With numerous things competing for our time, we are left in the rather uncomfortable position of having to be selective as to what things are going to get our valuable time, and what things are not.

Our meetings for the past season were well advertised. In addition they were always held at the same time and place, on the fourth Monday of the month. We can't assume, therefore, that low attendance was caused by not knowing in time that a meeting was being held. The real problem could only be that as each meeting night rolled around, about half of our members had something more important to do.

Now this is not leading into a blanket accusation of indifference. In all likelihood, the great majority of our ISA members who did not come to any particular meeting, were absent because they just had to be somewhere else that night.

But the point which we must not forget is this. One night each month we hold an ISA meeting. If it is the personal decision of each member that the ISA meeting is of lesser importance to him than the other things which happen to fall on that night, then the ISA in Sarnia should discontinue its meetings. We simply do not have the right to ask an important technical person or official of any company to spend two or three days of his time to come to speak at one of our meetings, when only a handful of our members can spare one evening of their time to listen to what he has to say.

The program chairman's job is, generally speaking, a rewarding one. Arrangements for obtaining guest speakers are usually easy to make, and one certainly gets acquainted with some nice people. The only hard part is getting ideas for topics. This is a point on which we could use some help. At the moment, we have on hand enough ideas to do about half of our next season's meetings. Usuable suggestions will be welcomed.

B. Connell

# MEETING NOTICE

TOPIC:            **Instrumentation Developments in Use Today**

SPEAKER:        **MR. JACK JOHNSTON**  
**Supervisor of Instrument Engineering Consultants**  
**E. I. de Pont de Nemours**

DATE:            **MAY 26, 1958**

TIME:            **6:30 P.M.**

PLACE:           **SARNIA GOLF CLUB**

SPECIAL:        **DINNER MEETING**  
**Liquid Refreshments**  
**Social Activities Afterwards**  
**Lucky Number Draw**

**Please Note. A ticket, price \$2.00 is required. Contact any of the following**  
**M. HICKS, R. ASSELSTINE, D. VETTER, B. GANSLER, B. CONNELL**

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**WRITTEN ON A ROLL CHART****The Craven**

Once upon a midnight dreary while I laboured weak and weary,  
On an oil-filled pressure system on a windy upper floor,  
Suddenly, there came a foot-step, yes a bounding, pounding boot-step,  
From the chilly depths below me to my frigid upper floor.  
Can it be that I am dreaming, are my safety-goggles steaming?  
Is it really, truly, someone coming up that rusty stair,  
When I climbed up here quite early, all alone, heartsick and surly,  
There was ne'er a living being showed his presence anywhere,  
Save the ghostly gulls a-swooping, ever-squawking, ever-looping,  
As they breast the clammy breezes from the sinister St. Clair,  
Seeking garbage everywhere.  
Now with tears my eye did glisten as I studied that filled system,  
And the spreading pool of liquid on the grating of the floor.  
And the chilly wind howled round me fiendish gusts to shake and pound me,  
'Till I felt that, like the aspen, I must shake for evermore.  
Now my careless ear reproaching, yet there seemed footsteps approaching,  
Scaling like a startled chamois up my lonely alpine-height,  
And quite soon, I grew much wiser, 'twas the night-shift supervisor,  
With his worried wise expression and his little blinking light.  
Quoth he, (fighting to speak steady), "is it fixed now? Is it ready?  
Can we go on 'automatic' with this illegitimate still?"  
When I said, "perhaps tomorrow", he did wail with rage and sorrow,  
And his gnashing teeth denoted that this was a bitter pill.  
Even now, I can remember when I started to dis-member,  
How his bent and shaking figure turned to go below again,  
Like some persecuted Daniel or a beaten water-spaniel,  
To his warm and comfy kennel, to forget about the pain.

—H. Hobbs

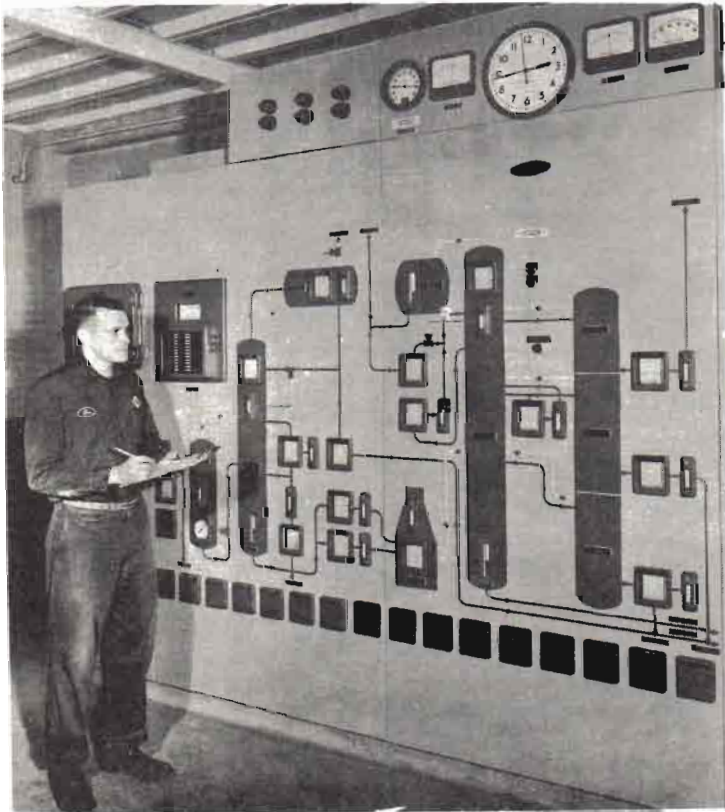
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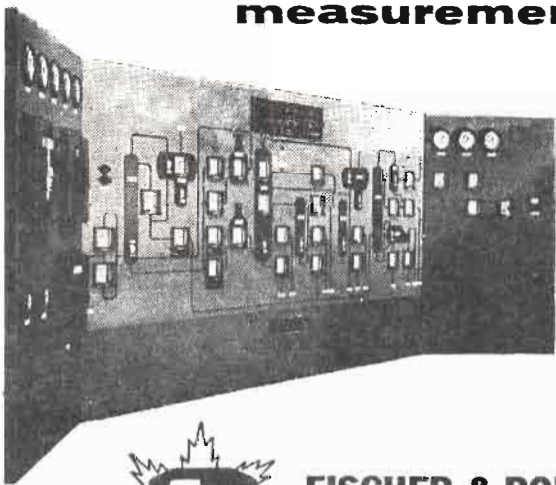
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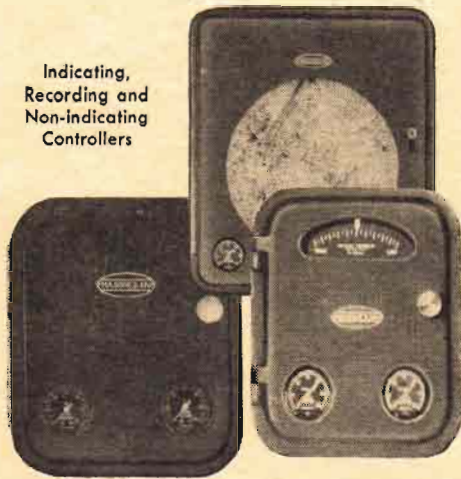
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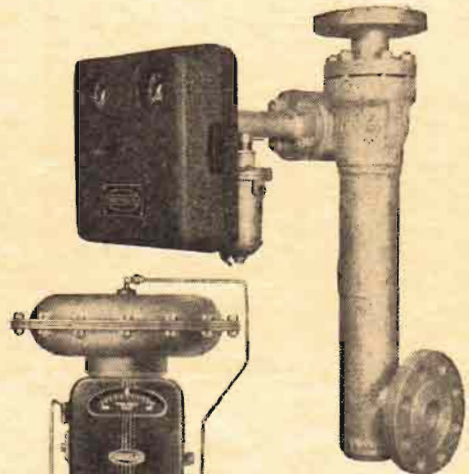
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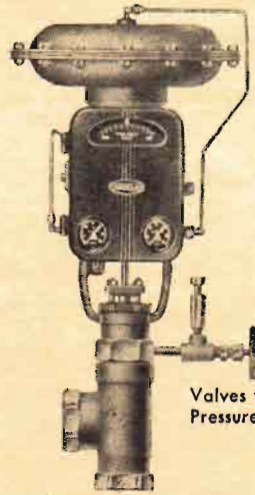
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