

May 59

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AMERICA

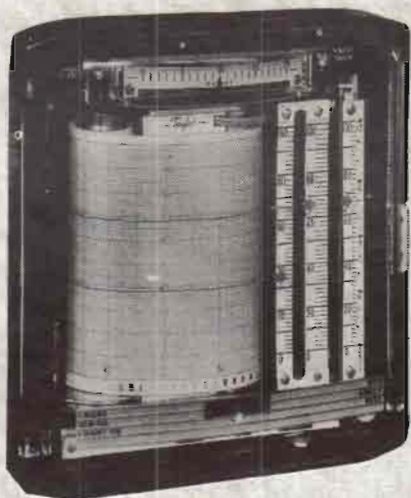


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SARNIA SECTION

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.

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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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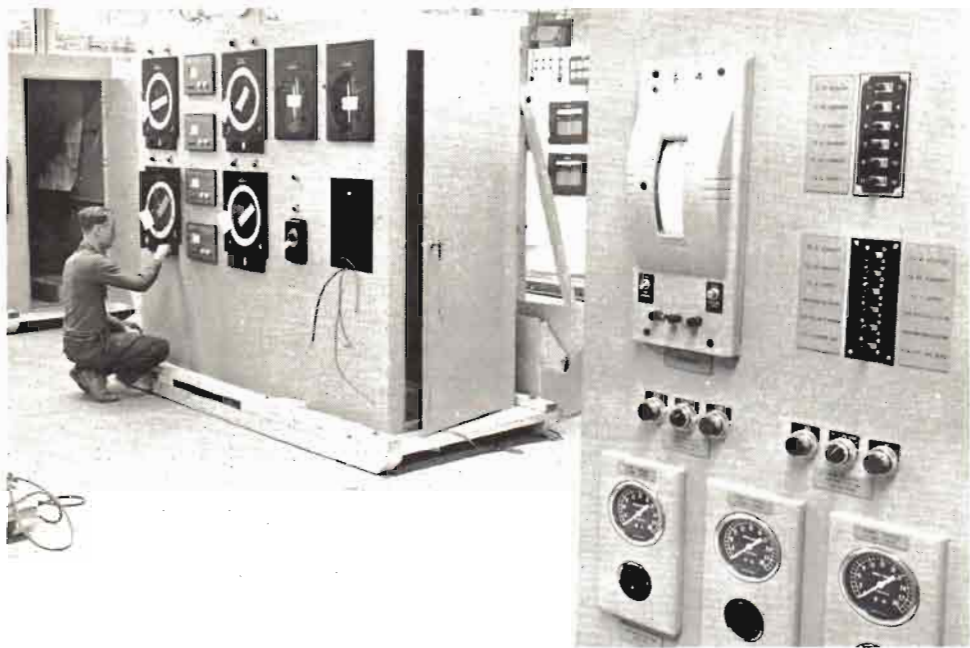
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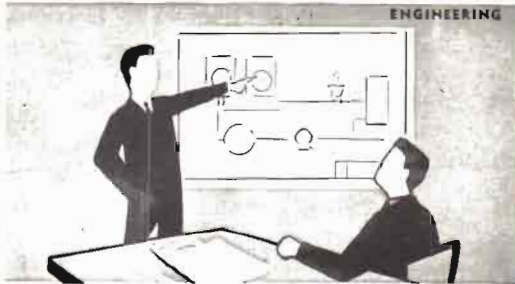
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The "BULLETIN"

VOLUME 8: No. 9

MAY 1959

EDITOR'S NOTES

In this issue for May, the final one of the season, we lean heavily upon the contribution of our President, Mike Hicks, who has given us an article of interest that is happily enough, none-controversial. Even though it has been our old-established policy to welcome material that will generate debate and bring on a flood of angry, printable replies, it is more fitting that this last, (seemingly for all time) issue expire on a note of harmony.

I cannot let this last opportunity go by without thanking all those who have given material for the "Bulletin" over the past several years. Mike Hicks has been very reliable, prompt and fruitful. Bill Kirk has often responded to persuasion, coaxing, crying, begging and pleading, and many times, has told me he is fresh out of new ideas and then comes across with more. My ace-in-the-hole, has always been the founder of this publication, Larry Hall. Larry, once or twice a year, could be depended upon to produce some subject matter that would arouse our lethargic membership and provoke argument. His offering for April past, is a good example. I have heard it described **verbally** as "unfortunate", "not helpful at this stage", "ill chosen", "dead wrong" and other mutterings of this nature. No one, however, has taken pen in hand to confute his reasoning and deal him an inky coup-de-grace upon the Bulletin battlefield. You win an easy victory, Larry, for none of the non-controversial faint-hearts will enter the lists against you. Perhaps, they therefore, only are reputed wise, for saying nothing. Thank you again, Larry, for the time and effort and since this seems to be the last Bulletin, and you have left instrument work, all may be for the best, because it would be difficult to publish without so staunch an ally.

In this issue is announced the plans for the May meeting. We hope that the ticket salesmen will get busy and turn in unsold tickets (and money) as soon as possible. This is an offer that has "bargain" written all over it and each of us has a cheap side to his nature to which this aspect must infallibly appeal.

At the last executive meeting it was decided, largely because of a motion pressed by myself, to cease publication. With our meetings reduced to half, our advertisers (bless them) would not be getting value for their money, so we cannot, honourably, continue.

Thank you, advertisers, for your support and we also thank the various members who in the post of advertising manager, have extorted our where-with-all from your bulging coffers.

APRIL MEETING

The regular meeting for April of the Sarnia Section, I.S.A. was held at the Vendome Hotel at 8 p.m. Monday the 27th.

The slate of officers for the new year met with relieved approval from the slender corps of voters present, who grasped eagerly at this insurance against activity on their part.

A Standard Oil film, outlining basic refinery processes and depicting equipment and activity at a large British refinery was shown.

Our speaker for the evening was Mr. J. R. Connell of Imperial Oil, who proved the error of any theory that one must be from out-of-town to be an expert.

Bob has travelled the width of our great country in the course of his work. He has been responsible for instrumentation inspection and sundry start-up activities at several of Imperial's refineries. This has given Bob a lot of experience and enabled him to give the section one of the most entertaining and informative lectures we have ever enjoyed.

The talk centered, for the most part, on the problems that arise in dealing with contractors and their employees. We were shown in some detail the typical instrument specifications issued to a contractor and it seemed, indeed, that they were so precise and complete that no mistakes could possibly be made. We saw slides of several atrocities built by these people, who evidently did find a way or perhaps, were employed by the Kremlin.

Bob told us of the struggle to detect, document and rectify these deviations from the plan and his story is a heart-rendering one. To combat a vicious blend of evasiveness, procrastination and ignorance calls for persistent diplomacy of a very high order. In addition, the time element is another source of pressure. Many highly-placed people are understandably anxious to get the job completed and the contractor booted out.

The answer is one word? Compromise. It seems necessary, always, to accept some incorrect installation for the sake of expediency.

How to overcome this fault? Several ways. Among which are even, (if this is possible, and I don't see how) more complete and fool-proof specifications. Inspection from the very start of construction. Most of all, says Bob, greater attention to proper engineering before the plant is built.

Thank you, Bob, for an illuminating evening.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Mike Hicks

Swan Song

The Editor informs me that this is the last epistle I am going to have to write for the Sarnia Bulletin since it appears we will not be publishing it in its present form after this year. It is difficult to know what to write about in these circumstances, other than funerals or wakes. Unfortunately I have never felt very happy about funerals and the Editor successfully covered wakes in his last poem. Another possibility would be the decline and fall of the Sarnia Instrument Society but again this has been covered at great length and from every angle by numerous writers, including this one, and there seems little or no future in belabouring that point any more. I have therefore decided to give the readers of this bulletin in particular and the rest of the world in general one more blast.

The subjects chosen for discussion today are the electronic instrument manufacturers. I should like to emphasize to start with that I am not sniping at the many well established instrument manufacturers who have catered specifically to the process industry for many years, nor am I aiming at the newer companies who again aim specifically at our industry. The subjects of this blast are the newer instrument companies who have until now existed on handouts from the government in the form of armament contracts.

If I may digress a little, I should like to get in a quick shot at the hypocrites who have prostituted the word defence which I almost wrote instead of armament. My dictionary defines defence as "protection against attack, warding off injury". How in heaven's name an ICBM armed with a hydrogen bomb can be considered as defence is beyond me.

However, back to my main thesis. Please let me get in first that I have a great deal of respect for the vast store of knowledge which these people apply to their present work and which they wish to apply to mine. My main quibble with them is that they have absolutely no conception of the problems they are determined to solve for us, the appalling conditions under which their solutions will have to perform, and last but by no means least the money we are prepared to pay for the solution. They come before us apparently expecting us to throw up our hands in joy and cry "Nunc Dimittis". They sneer in frank dis-belief when we inform them that because a particular piece of equipment will operate for four hours at twice the speed of sound and at an altitude of 50,000 feet, it is no guarantee that it will operate for twelve months, standing still, at sea level,

when being sprayed with a mixture of rubber latex and glue. They shudder when we say that an instrument should be capable of supporting a 250 lb. pipefitter for at least three hours. This, they proclaim, is rank carelessness and should not be tolerated and privately I may be inclined to agree with them but I know it happens and have to accept the fact.

They offer us fantastic computing devices capable of giving complete unit balances once every ten seconds in the manager's office, all to an accuracy of $1/10$ of 1%. They forget that the primary elements on which these computers rely are only good to $\pm 2\%$ at best and that in any case the cost of running the necessary explosion proof conduits alone may be of the order of \$25,000. They also forget that the shift man or grave yard is not a Ph. D. in electronics and even if he was would not be terribly interested in trouble shooting a mis-applied pressure transducer at the top of a 200 foot fractionation column on a wet snowy night.

This then is my plea to these gentlemen, please, before making your sales pitch try to find out a little about the industry to which you are trying to sell. We are not the Defence Department nor are we the Atomic Energy Commission and we certainly have not got their money. We are, however, willing to pay quite large sums of money for ridiculously simple pieces of equipment. These must, however, perform indefinitely under conditions which are admittedly difficult and should be capable of being understood by an instrument mechanic who although no fool, is not and never will have a complete understanding of the significance of Planck's constant and the Theory of Relativity.

Above all, please do not talk down to us as though we are village idiots who have no conception of the strides made in instrumentation recently. We read the literature as avidly as the next man and our mouths water at the possibilities which some of the more recent developments open up to us but it is in either direction a big jump from a guided missile to a heat exchanger and even devoted missile men must admit that missiles do not always work as they should.

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PROGRAM CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

On May 25, 1959, we conclude another season of ISA meetings with a dinner meeting at the Guildwood Inn. The dinner is scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m. D.S.T. Arrangements have been made to dispense liquid refreshments, however, and the necessary facilities will be in operation starting at 6.00 p.m.

As has been our policy in the past, the program has been selected to make it attractive to supervisory people. We recommend, therefore, that you avail yourself of the opportunity to invite your supervisor, or his supervisor, (the sky's the limit), to attend this ISA meeting. The subject to be presented will be electronic instrumentation, with particular reference to the benefits to be gained, and the new and peculiar problems which will arise. The actual circuitry and such fine details will be played down. Our guest speaker will be the Chief Application Engineer of the Foxboro Company, Mr. Vince Tivy. Aside from the fact that Vince has a wide background of experience which qualifies him to discuss this subject, he is well known as an enthusiastic speaker who can make most any instrumentation topic enjoyable to listen to.

Our traditional draw for prizes will be held again this year. Our sales members and well wishers have been kind enough to donate the prizes as their contribution to our final meeting. Some very valuable items are included, and we certainly appreciate their generosity.

The price for a ticket is \$1.00 for members, \$2.00 for guests. Frankly fellows, this is cheaper than you can eat at home. At the present time, tickets are available from Mike Hicks, Bill Gansler, Howard Hobbs, Ron Asselstine, and Bob Connell. The best advice we can give you now is—don't get caught without one.

MEETING NOTICE

DATE: MAY 25, 1959

PLACE: GUILDWOOD INN

TIME: 7:00 P.M. (E.D.S.T.)
(Bar opens 6.00 P.M.)

TOPIC: **"ELECTRONIC INSTRUMENTATION AND ITS EFFECTS ON THE PROCESSING INDUSTRIES"**

SPEAKER: **MR. VINCE TIVY**
Chief Application Engineer, Foxboro Company
Foxboro, Massachusetts

SPECIAL EVENTS: DINNER
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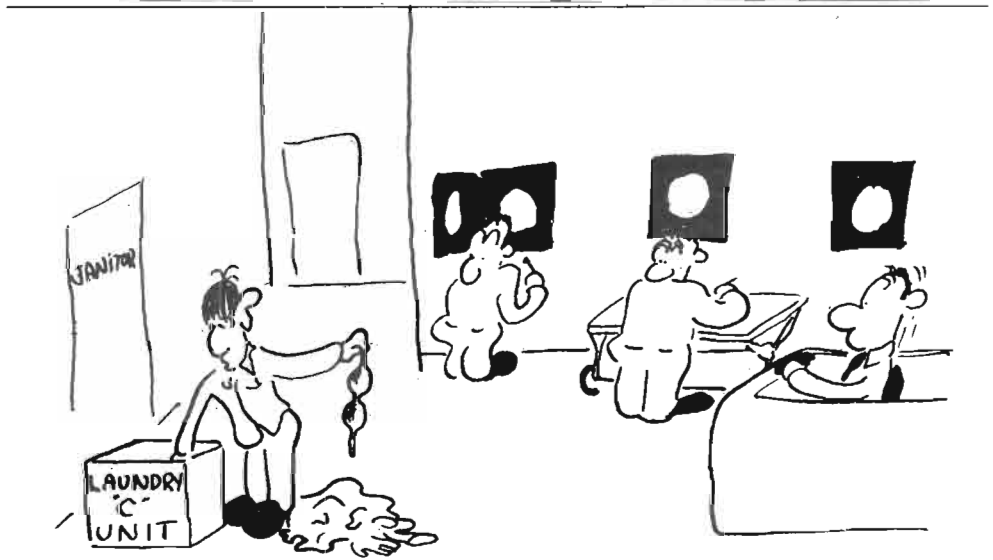
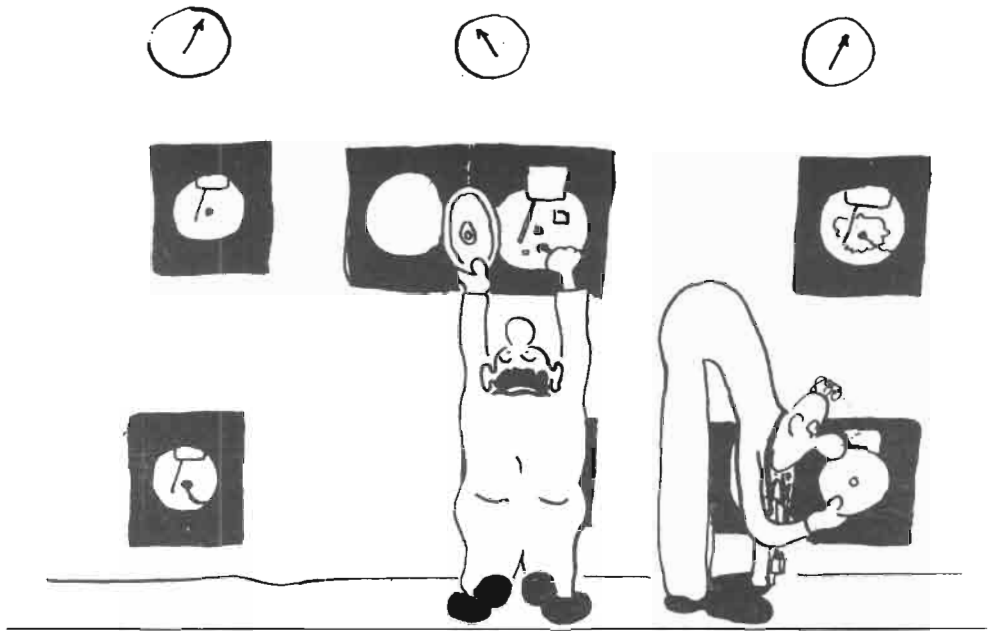
Note: A ticket is required. Contact Mike Hicks, Bill Gansler, Howard Hobbs, Ron Asselstine, or Bob Connel.

WRITTEN ON A ROLL CHART**The Last Lay Of The Minstrel**

And whereof progress but in constant change?
For every day do landmarks disappear
Which men who planted them in ages past
Would swear endurance 'till the judgement day.
Thus is it with this humble magazine,
Which flourishing since immemorial time,
Goes down a sacrifice to circumstance
Which we bewail but cannot overpower.
Depart the sanctified, self-righteous, joy and pride,
That clothes the launcher of each printed barb.
No more the shattered windmills shall bestrew
The trail of this now-absent long-eared steed.
No more the monthly dead-line panic rush,
To get our monthly morsel to the press,
But still the fight goes on, and in the dusk,
The shattered remnants of our forces form
A tiny square that fronts on all the world.
And though our bugle sounds this last faint note,
We are not weaponless, do not despair.
"Still will we try the last,
Before our bodies throw our warlike shield.
Lay on MacDuff, and cursed he who first
Cries, hold, enough".

(apologies to the late W.S.)

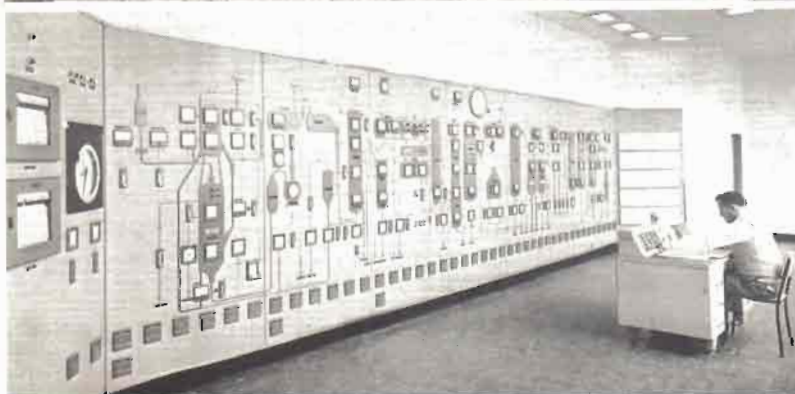
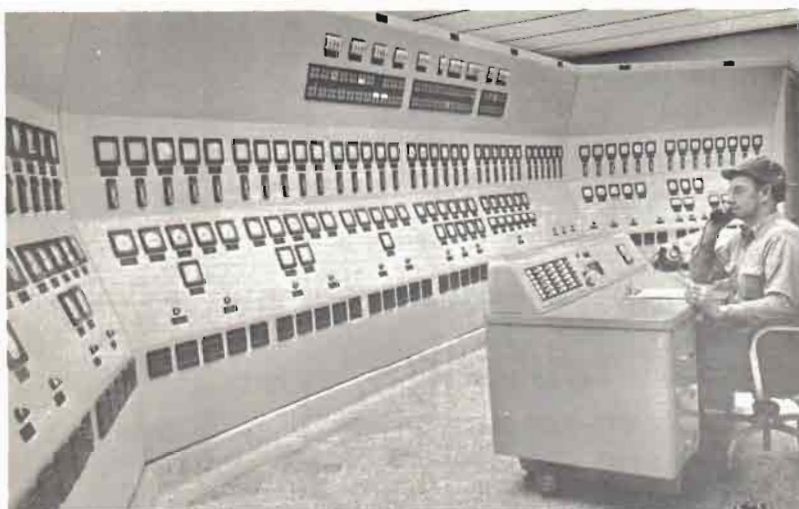
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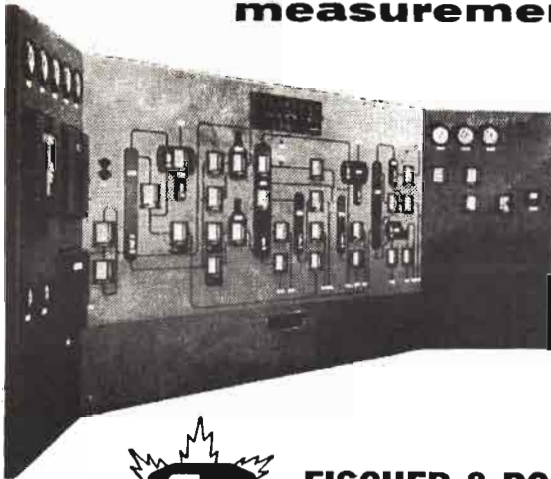
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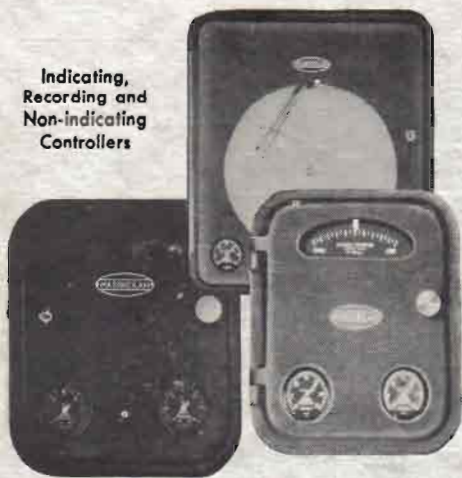
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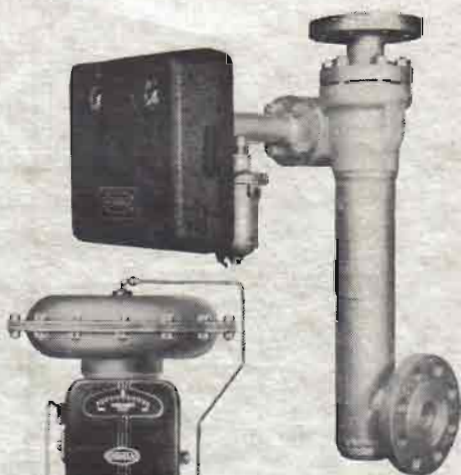
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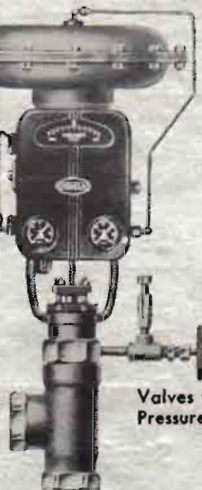
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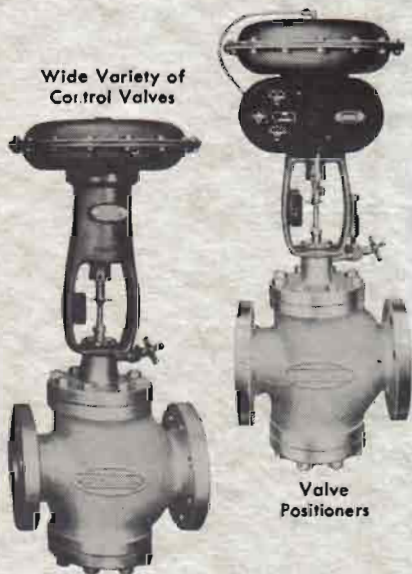


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