

Nov 58

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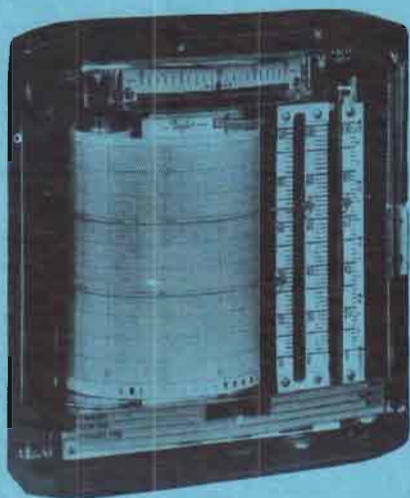


SARNIA SECTION



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 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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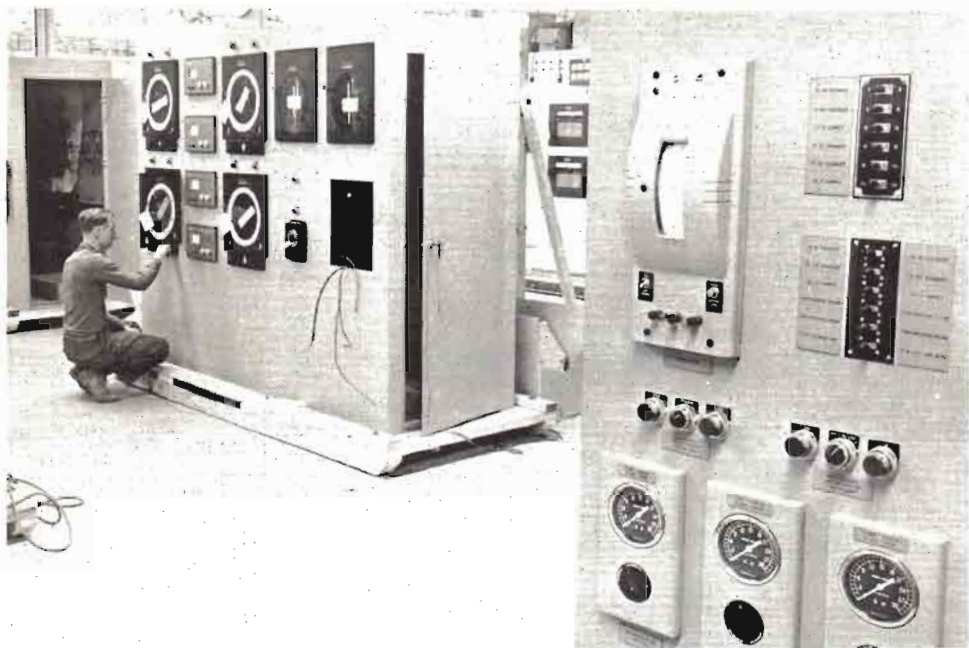
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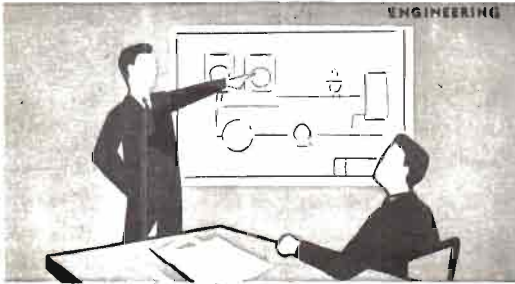
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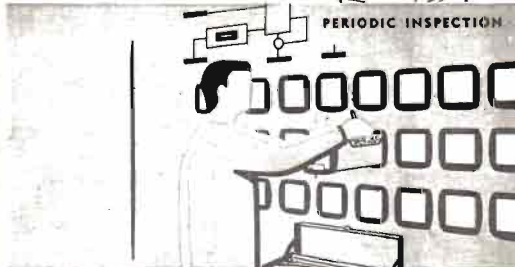
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# The "BULLETIN"

VOLUME 8: No. 3

NOVEMBER, 1958

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## EDITORIAL

In this Bulletin for November, we welcome with open arms, and tear-filled eyes, our old reliable contributor, E. W. Kirk. Bill has a splendid article for us this time. An article that is so true that it jerks at the heart-strings. It should be posted in every managerial office, and heeded well by those who think that trouble-free processes exist once they leave the drawing boards.

We have accepted and printed with equal pleasure the contribution of our Section President, Mike Hicks. Mike's article is on "Punctuality", a subject that makes me glad my skin is thick.

We are glad to report that the vacancy of Vice-president will be ably filled by Curt. MacDonald. Perhaps my choice of words is poor, here. If Curt feels that his position is void of responsibilities, he faces disillusion. Vice-presidents are a legal source of Bulletin material.

Our change of meeting-place and other important details are discussed elsewhere in this issue.

Remember to secure your tickets soon.

\* \* \*

## OCTOBER MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the Sarnia Section, I. S. A., was held the evening of Monday, October 27th, at the Vendome Hotel. About 30 members and guests attended.

After an entertaining film on basic electronics, the speaker for the evening was introduced. He was Mr. P. R. Hickey of Canadian Westinghouse Company Limited, Electronics Division. His topic, "Control and Static Switching".

This talk was a far cry from the usual, which is often confined to specific control problems or types of instrumentation. Mr. Hickey practiced no such restraint. He sailed boldly into the uncharted mine-fields of medicine and psychology and emerged without a scratch. Before this voyage, I felt that I made a few decisions on my own initiative. Mr. Hickey exposed the fallacy of this thinking. It appears that every move I make is governed by a swarm of 2 position relays, interlocked and feeding back

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into one another, and governed by our old friends heredity and environment.

This is a depressing and soul-shattering discovery, removing all remnants of pride I had left. Goodness knows, they were few enough, but Mr. Hickey has convinced me that it is not really **me** selecting a pair of socks in the morning, it is some relays driven by BOOLEAN Algebra.

Our thanks to Mr. Hickey, and Canadian Westinghouse for this engrossing lecture. The glimpse it gave us of ourselves and the particular applications where transistor relays perform their bodily functions in computers and control systems was very thought-provoking.

\* \* \* \*

### THOUGHT FOR THIS MONTH

It's tough to make a mistake, but it's tougher still to find out you're so unimportant that nobody noticed it.

Stolen by J. R. Graham

\* \* \* \*

### INSTRUMENTS ARE MY LINE

By E. W. Kirk

Once again the fall season is here and as usual the I. S. A. activities are put into gear. This, of course, means our very able (and persistent) editor is arm twisting for articles for the Bulletin.

My vision of semi retirement was shattered last month with his smooth version of get that writing arm unlimbered. A few have asked, why am I retiring—"shift work" I say. You see, on shift, one loses contact with the supply of ideas for the series of articles I had been writing. This, I hate to admit is a lame excuse, but an excuse is better than none. You see there are people who think a shift man has a soft touch. Why with all these modern new gadgets, a maintenance man on duty 24 hours is no longer necessary. (Hurrah! for these people). However, the Instrument man,—say! What is an Instrument man? The best definition I have heard, was given by my daughter, who just this year started to school. When asked what her daddy did at work, she replied, "my daddy can fix anything, he is an Insirman". Now this is good propaganda to make the old man feel good—a bit on the extreme side—or was she. People often ask, just what is an Instrument Mechanic and what does he do? For an illustration of his



work, I have copied a page of the shift log of our unit, which is where the hydrocarbons are combined to make rubber (Co-Polymer). The shift starts at 11.15 and was recorded as follows:

Item 1—Unplugged No. 20 blend tank level indicator instrument.

Item 2—Unplugged No. 22 blend tank level indicator instrument.

Item 3—Rechecked calibrations on No. 7 line stabilizer (oil instrument) were O.K.

Item 4—Zeroed No. 3 Latex Venturi meter. Instructed new process man, that set point should be at hub, for tight shutoff during zero procedure.

Item 5—Changed control settings on No. 8 Latex meter, to stop excessive cycle.

Item 6—Took part No. 7 Latex Venturi and cleaned. Also resealed transmitter and repair seized reset knob on Foxboro Controller.

Item 7—Fic-4026—found manual station (on Swartwout) sticking. Removed and repaired pointer.

Item 8—Took apart the 4" saunders valve on No. 1 blowdown—valve body and line plugged with rubber — Pipefitters will have to remove in A.M. and burn out.

Item 9—11-D reactor—removed Foxboro Dynalog thermohm, to permit hot varsol wash on reactor.

Item 10—Installed new P H electrodes No. 7 coag. tank.

Item 11—C continuous chain—styrene valve plugged—removed and cleaned.

Item 12—C continuous chain—styrene transmitter flushed out and zeroed.

Item 13—Checked refractometer meter for control lab.—found 110 v supply tripped out.

Item 14—No 7 line—changed Beckman PH tray—also replaced salt in electrode.

Item 15—12-D reactor not controlling properly (temperature). Didn't get time to check out—left for relief, as I am going home—7.15 A.M.

As you can see this man was part pipefitter, electrician, instrument and instructor to process. So as my daughter said, "He fixes anything". That's about it folks. If no one else can solve your problems, call an Instrument Mechanic, he will tackle anything, even to writing corny articles.

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# MEETING NOTICE

DATE: NOVEMBER 24, 1958

PLACE: GUILDWOOD INN

TOPIC: **THE EFFECTS OF HESTERESIS IN DERIVATIVE CONTROL**

SPEAKER: **MR. D. M. BOYD, Jr.**  
**Chief Instrument Engineer**  
**Universal Oil Products Co.**  
**Des Plaines, Illinois.**

SPECIAL  
ARRANGE-  
MENTS: DINNER MEETING

TIME: BAR OPENS 6.30 P.M.

DINNER STARTS 7.15 P.M.

NOTE: A ticket, price \$2.00, is required. This can be obtained from Mr. M. Hicks, Polymer Corporation — Mr. Bob Connell, Imperial Oil — Mr. Ron Asselstine, Canadian Oil — Mr. Larry Hall, Sun Oil Co. — Mr. H. Hobbs, Dow Chemical.

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## “ON PUNCTUALITY”

By Mike Hicks

Periodically all good organization presidents take it upon themselves as a matter of principle to castigate some foible or weakness of the organization to which they belong. If at the same time the president can appear a little pious or self-righteous and put in an unctuous word or two concerning his own virtue so much the better, although this is not always necessary. Admittedly this does not always win friends and/or influence people, but then in his august position he does not have to. Possibly the only person in an organization who is in a better position to throw dirt around is the immediate past president. He is not responsible to anybody for anything and has another advantage in that he never has to ask anyone to perform the various chores that are always waiting to be done in any organization. In addition to this, he has been through the organization and knows his way around which always helps when you are pointing a finger of scorn at anybody or anything.

It seems to me that I have been good humoured and pleasant to everybody far too long and I shall remedy this forthwith. Why is it that so very few people bother to turn up to any public function on time? It is such an easy thing to do and if everybody did it life would be so much simpler. As it is, any organizer knows that it is futile to expect anything to start on time and in consequence he does not even try. In consequence, people who would usually be only five minutes late are ten minutes late, since they know it will be late starting anyway. The whole thing rapidly develops into a vicious circle in which the only people who suffer are the speaker, who has to be there on time, and the few poor misguided souls who try, out of common courtesy, to be there punctually and then sit for anything up to half an hour feeling very self-conscious wondering whether they have come to the wrong meeting. That this could actually happen is borne out by the fact that two very charming young ladies once sat through the first few minutes of one of our meetings last year having waited thirty minutes for it to start in the fond belief that it was the monthly meeting of the Sarnia Hairdressers Guild.

Now those of you who were at our last meeting may have noticed that we started only five minutes late. Although unusual this was not an accident, but was done deliberately as a warning. From now on we are going to start not even at 8.05 but at 8.00 p.m. precisely even if the only people present are myself and the speaker. Admittedly I do not yet feel in strong enough position to bar the door to those individuals who are late until the first act, or what you will, is over but give me time and a few punctual

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meetings and even that might happen. This, by the way, is done at the Stratford festival in spite of the fact that it is cash customers they are keeping away. However there it is done in the name of art and even the most polished orator at any I.S.A. session would hardly claim he is the equal of Shakespeare, at least I hope not. In addition, things are done in the name of art which could never be done in the name of science.

Take notice then, the NEW ORDER has commenced and we now start punctually at the time stated in the Bulletin. . This is the last warning you are going to get.

There now, that is the president's blast off his chest. It was not too bad really, was it? And come to think of it I didn't even sound Self-righteous about it, at least I hope not. However, that may come when I am past president and will give you all something to look forward to.

\* \* \* \*

### PROGRAM CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Our November meeting will have a certain point of interest which was not present in meetings 1 and 2. We will be able to determine whether it is actually possible to arrange for a certain meeting place and a certain speaker on a certain subject, advertise them in our bulletin, and actually have everything turn out as arranged. This is your program chairman's fourth season in this capacity. In the past, the best of program arrangements have run into snags. On occasion, we have had to scramble for a meeting place on short notice. In my experience, however, our latest meeting was the first time a speaker has failed to meet a commitment, and did not arrange to send a substitute in his place. So much for the Du Mont Laboratories and their oscilloscopes.

It has been decreed by our executive that our November meeting is to be a dinner meeting. We have accordingly arranged for a roast beef dinner at the Guildwood Inn. Following the dinner, Mr. Dave Boyd of Universal Oil Products will discuss the effects of hysteresis, particularly in temperature measurement, on control systems in which rate action is used.

Dave Boyd is Chief Instrument Engineer of Universal Oil Products. He is very well known throughout the entire instrument industry, and has an extensive background of experience. He has quite a representation as a gadget man. His company was one of the first to take a flier on the new fangled electronic contraptions.

The topic he will discuss has for its basis observations made by Dave and his associates of a number of temperature control systems. Why was

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it that with pneumatic temperature controllers, the theoretical rate action settings, (found by Ziegler and Nichols methods), would often prove to be unsatisfactory? Why did they prove to be correct for electronic systems, with a great improvement in temperature control as a result? The answers to these questions will be forthcoming at our next meeting.

Incidentally, this meeting will present another opportunity for one of our membership to win a copy of the "Process Instruments and Control Handbook". This in itself is a matter worth looking into, since this volume with all its comprehensive information on the instrument field has a price tag of over 20 dollars.

**WRITTEN ON A ROLL CHART**

**TEMPERANCE IS USEFUL IN ITS PLACE**

O, the usual way, yes the usual way, that  
Instrument meetings are held.

We sit us down in unyielding chairs  
And fix the speaker with fishy stares  
Unmoving, as though we had jelled.

And speakers indeed, are a durable breed, more  
rugged than one might expect.

They soak up our scrutiny  
Nor quibble, nor mutiny  
In manner polite and correct.

Avoiding psychosis, from this mass hypnosis, is  
Clever, yes clever indeed.

They must have courage not to yield  
They must be wearing a leaden shield  
Else they would snap like a reed.

But, this is the month, yes, this is the  
Month, that brings about a change.  
We're holding our meeting, (here's the nub).  
In a different and far more active, pub,  
And a manner, to us, quite strange.

So here's to the speaker, may his voice ne'er  
Grow weaker, let everyone give him a cheer.  
And e'en though his thesis  
Is (ugh) hysteresis  
T'will sound better after a beer.

So this month, at least, let us hie to the feast  
Let learning and fellowship blend.  
Let the speaker depart  
With joy in his heart  
And we gain an un hypnotized friend.

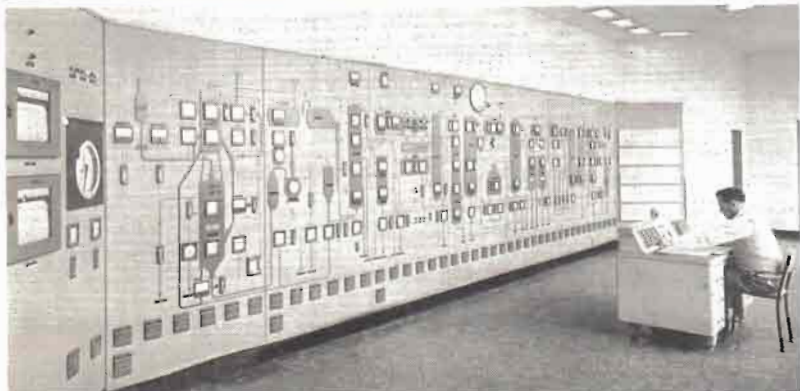
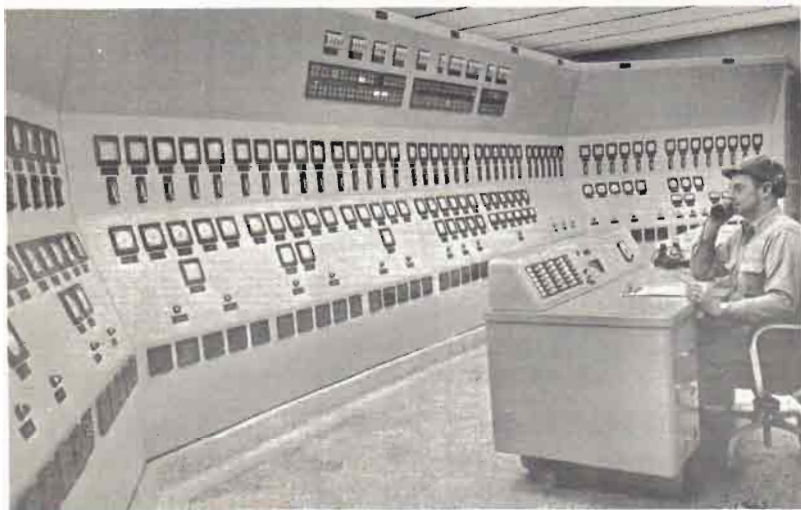
—H. Hobbs.



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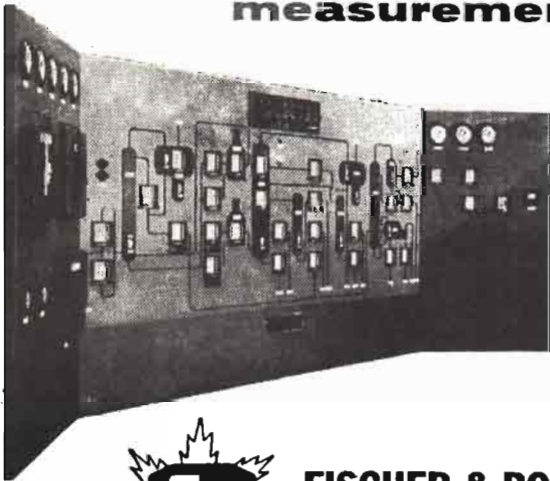
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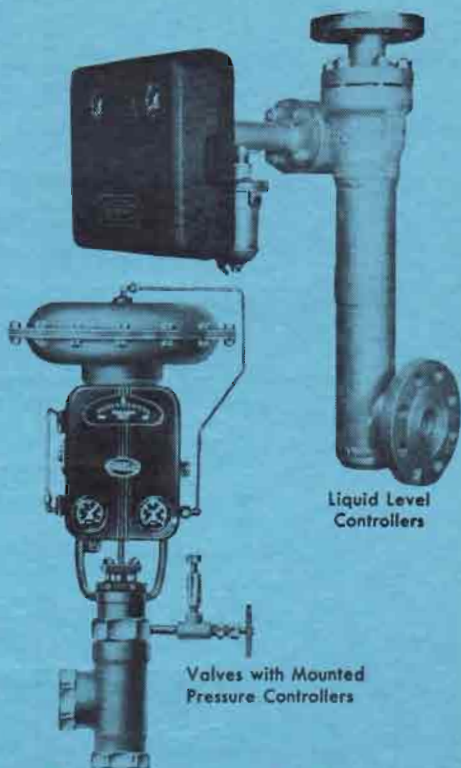


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