125th Anniversary Celebration



In early 2018, the ASHRAE Historical Committee proposed multiple projects in celebration of ASHRAE's 125th anniversary. Many suggestions were made as to the coverage, format, and possible authors for the work; and, these projects eventually included writing articles for the ASHRAE Journal, creating a historic calendar, and compiling biographical information on men and women who had made substantive contributions to the art and science of the industry that ASHRAE serves. ASHRAE even created a lapel pin for members who wanted to join in the celebration (right). Society President Chuck Gulledge, in the 2020-2021 PAOE categories, create two Presidential Initiatives to celebrate the 125th Year Celebration. This article is one way to achieve these points. I hope you enjoy it.

ASHRAE and Industry History – Continued Part 4

In the last article we learned that the **"The American Society of Refrigerating Engineers (ASRE)"** was incorporated in the state of New York on December 4th and 5th, 1904. Some of our current ASHRAE rituals today are also tied to this group similarly to the ASHVE. To comply with the laws of the State of New York, the date of the annual meeting was specified in the Constitution as the "Monday before the first Tuesday in December" so the Society meeting would be held as close to the ASME meeting.

The newly formed Society was interested in many of the issues of the day, but foremost wanted to establish priorities that would be to the public's best interest. The objective of the Society was to conduct research, develop standards, hold technical meetings and present and publish technical articles in journals and handbooks. The founding members of the Society always strived to meet these objectives and the greatest need of refrigerating engineers: the search for fundamental data upon which more accurate data could be published and standards developed (Research!).

ASRE's first President, John Starr, defined the Society's guiding principles. He stated that, "To define our field in a word, I may say that we claim as our own all that relates to the production of temperatures, below the ordinary, for useful purpose. We have undertaken the responsibility of speaking with authority, of finding the truth, and proclaiming it, and a critical world will hold us to our task or pass us by as unworthy. Our forum, however, must be a forum for all the membership, and its discussion for the good of all. The truth is our aim and the seeking of it our work. Within our doors a perpetual truce should prevail, and the sword and buckle of everyday strife is to be laid aside at the threshold."

In an effort to share information, the proceedings of the Society's annual meeting were published and made available for sale each year in a bound book, titled Transactions of The American Society of Refrigerating Engineers. It was distributed to other technical publications that might find the technical papers published therein of interest.

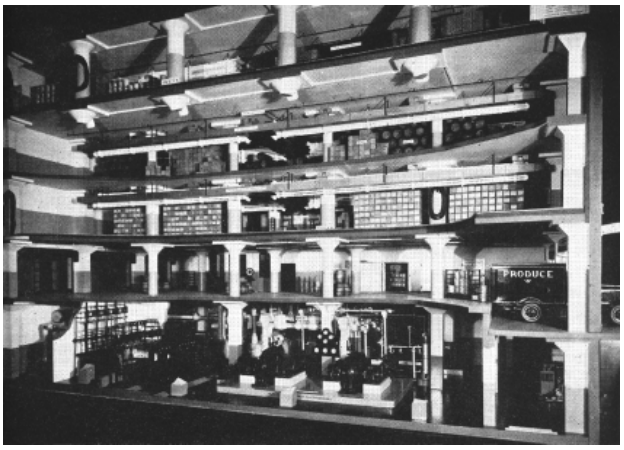


In 1917, the Journal of The American Society of Refrigerating Engineers reported tests to determine the elastic deformation of balsa wood (at right two men sit on a plank). They were part of a study on the properties of balsa as an insulation material.

Early actions of the Society reflected the members' earnest desire to meet the stated objectives of their society. During the First Annual Meeting, for example, members unanimously passed a resolution recommending that the U.S. Congress appropriate sufficient funds so the U.S. Department of Agriculture could equip and maintain a cold storage plant for the purpose of **research**. In addition, the

Society responded to the issue of establishing a standard unit or “ton” of refrigeration by appointing a committee of five to work with other engineering organizations.

Another example of an early action by members is that at the January 14, 1905 meeting of the Council, members voted to accept an invitation from Thomas Shipley, chairman of the York Manufacturing Company of York, Pennsylvania, to visit the company’s test plant to conduct tests on mechanical refrigeration.



To the right is a true to scale model of a cold storage plant with more than 2,000 individual castings was conceived by an ASRE committee and built by Berthold Audsley in 1931. The model showed the insulation, refrigerating system, elevators, and power plant equipment. The model was loaned to the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry

Below the scale model and to the right are three bronze plaques were completed in 1959 honoring pioneers in the field of refrigeration and refrigerating equipment. The two men individually honored are John Gorrie and Alexander Twining. The third plaque listed 12 additional American pioneers. The plaques now hang at the International Headquarters of ASHRAE in Atlanta.



Please note: information excerpted from information available from ASHRAE website through the Historical Committee links - “Proclaiming the Truth” – Chapter 1.

Respectfully Submitted, Randy Schrecengost, Historian