

Golden Anniversary of the TAPPI Engineering Conference melds the past, present, and future

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In a remote location isolated from the environment, a lone operator runs a paper machine at high speeds producing many grades of high-quality paper during a single day's operation. Hello, is this 2046? William G. Cook, Valmet, the Engineering Division chairman, with the assistance of Stephen P. Fusco, Valmet, conducted a *telephone call* to a mill operator in 2046 during the opening session. With this vision of the future, the 50th Anniversary TAPPI Engineering Conference was under way. Dallas, TX, in September was the setting for the event which attracted 800 attendees from 10 countries. Those attendees had the opportunity to attend 70 committee meetings, hear 75 technical papers and five panel discussions, plus take advantage of many chances to network.

Program highlights

Opening session

In addition to Cook and Fusco's phone call the opening session featured a historical look at 50 years of engineering progress. Percy L. Nelson, Stone & Webster Engineering Corp.; H.A. Webster, Corrosion Service Company Ltd.; and Bob Guide, Longview Fibre, presented a look back at the 50 years since the conference formed in 1946 in Milwaukee. The audience laughed through some of the old methods and were amazed by how things have changed yet how efficient engineers were throughout the 50 years.

Technical sessions*

The traditional maintenance roundtable (now named in honor of Bill Babington, organizer of many past roundtables) occurred during the opening day. Panel sessions included dis-

The Engineering Division Council (L to R): **W.B.A. "Sandy" Sharp**, awards chairman; **Frank J. Sutman**, publicity chairman; **William G. Cook**, chairman; **Douglas A. Rounds**, secretary/technical program chairman; **Larry E. Butts**, Council member; and **Joseph A. Barsin**, Membership chairman. Not pictured are **Andrew Garner**, vice chairman, and **Jere W. Crouse**, technical editor.



Jere W. Crouse (L), Beloit Corp., presents **Max D. Moskal**, Stone Container Corp., with the stipend for the Beloit Award.



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Conference Report

Michael D. Wallace (L), Mead Central Research, the TAPPI Board of Director's representative, presents **Scott R. Robertson**, BE&K Engineering and Construction Co., with a Certificate of Outstanding Merit.



cussion on mill engineering dilemmas, top wire formers on linerboard, implementing safety on projects, and corrosion in kraft liquor tanks.

The technical program track system was organized into seven tracks this year by Chairman Douglas A. Rounds, Beloit Corp. These tracks covered papermaking, boilers, mill operations, mill engineering, safety, corrosion, and engineering managers. New for 1995 was the safety track.

Committee meetings

Committee meetings were held throughout the week many with programs and sessions. An ad hoc Safety Committee was created which will be chaired by Paul Wilson, retiring chairman from the Process Engineering Committee. The Process Control, Electrical and Information (PCE&I) Division held several committee meetings during the conference.

Networking events

According to evaluations from past conferences, networking is one of the most important activities at a conference. The Engineering Conference offered a plethora of networking choices beginning with a continental breakfast prior to the opening session. All attendees were given slide rules as a conference memento and something to get their networking off to an easy start—impromptu sessions on slide rule use developed during the breakfast. The coffee and refreshment breaks during the technical sessions offered opportunities to discuss topics while still fresh. The conference reception provided an easy networking environment for spouses and guests plus the chance to view photos from the past while listening to music from the '40s. The conference prayer breakfast was open to all attendees Wednesday morning and featured W.B.A. "Sandy" Sharp, Westvaco Corp.

Best Paper awardees from the 1994 Engineering Conference **Johan Nordström** (R) and **Arne Bergquist**, Avesta Sheffield AB



Gala event

The second annual gala event was held Tuesday evening. Conference attendees and their guests went to a multisponsored Texas BBQ and Rodeo at the Mesquite Arena. The event included excellent Texas BBQ and a chance to learn to two-step and line dance plus caricature artists, photo opportunities with a bull (stuffed), and card dealing demonstrations. The rodeo included everything from barrel racing to bull riding to Kenneth E. Smith, Brown & Root Inc., riding in the rodeo parade.

Fun run

Frank J. Sutman, Betz Paperchem, won the men's division of the 13th Annual Paper Chase 5K run with a time of 18:01. Sutman was heard celebrating with the words "Now I have a complete set of silver bowls, my wife and I can finally entertain!" Laura Thompson won the women's division with a time of 27:46. Eric W. Wiberg, Consolidated Papers Inc., finished second in the men's division at 19:37 and Charles G. Higginbotham, Bowater, Inc., finished third at 21:04. Cynthia Ratcliff finished in second place in the women's division at 27:56 and Virginia Durham, Betz Industrial, finished third with a time of 28:34. Well over US\$ 100,000 has been raised through support of the Paper Chase. This money supports scholarships at 10 pulp and paper programs throughout the country. There will be a "Special Edition" Paper Chase held at TAPPI 96 in New Orleans.

Awards and scholarships

Division awards

Max D. Moskal, project manager of metallurgy at Stone Container Corp. in Burr Ridge, IL, was awarded the Beloit Award which includes a stipend of US\$ 5000. The award is given in recognition of outstanding technical contributions

Gerry Schreiner (R), James River, and **David Thun**, Voith-Sulzer, Yankee Dryer Safety Subcommittee Distinguished Service Awardees



Wynelle E. Pardue (L), Rust Engineering Co., receives a Special Recognition Award from **Robert E. Sellers**, Champion International, program chairman, Engineering Management Committee



in the field of engineering in the paper-related industries. For more information on Moskal, please see the October 1995 issue of *Tappi Journal*, p. 228. Scott R. Robertson, vice president of communications for BE&K Engineering and Construction Co. in Birmingham, AL, received a Certificate of Outstanding Merit. Robertson has been organizing the Paper Chase Fun Run for 13 years. For more information on Robertson please see the October issue of *Tappi Journal*, p. 228. Receiving the Best Paper award from the 1994 Engineering Conference were Johan Nordström and Arne Bergquist, Avesta Sheffield AB, Sweden. Their paper, "Implant corrosion testing in chlorine dioxide environments," is scheduled to appear in the February 1996 issue of *Tappi Journal*. Certificates of Appreciation for effort and commitment were given to the following outgoing committee chairmen during the Division officers' dinner: George E. Story, Engineering Management Committee; Donald L. Willis, Material Handling and Industrial Engineering Committee; Wayman L. Thompson, Steam and Power Committee; Jan A. Barynin, Energy Management Committee; Nancy J. Sell, Process Simulation Committee; and Paul H. Wilson, Process Engineering Committee.

Committee and subcommittee awards

The Yankee Dryer Safety Subcommittee's Distinguished Service Award was given to Jim Paterson, formerly of Beloit Walmsley; Gerry Schreiner, James River; and David Thun, Voith-Sulzer, by William G. Corboy, Chairman, Yankee Dryer Safety Subcommittee, for their enduring commitment to the Subcommittee's goals and advancement of the design, operating, and maintenance safety of Yankee dryers around the world. Wynelle E. Pardue, Rust Engineering Co., was presented a Special Recognition Award for outstanding service by the Engineering Management Committee.

Scholarships

During the opening session it was announced that Elaine M. Galt, a senior paper science major at Miami University in Oxford, OH, and Jennifer L. Hinson, a junior pulp and paper science/chemical engineering major at North Carolina State University (NCSU) in Raleigh, NC, would receive scholarships for US\$ 3000 each from the Division. For more information on Galt and Hinson please see the October 1995 issue of *Tappi Journal*, p. 229.

What's next?

Find out what 51 years of Engineering Conference experience will mean at the 1996 TAPPI Engineering Conference, Sept. 16–19, 1996, at the Hyatt Regency, Chicago, IL. If you are interested in presenting a paper please contact Douglas A. Rounds, Beloit Corp., One St. Lawrence Ave., Beloit, WI, 53511-6270, telephone: (608) 364-7692; fax: (608) 364-7013. For more information on the conference please contact TAPPI's Service Line at 800-332-8686 (U.S.), 800-446-9431 (Canada), or (770) 446-1400 (outside U.S. and Canada).

The next 50 years of engineering should occur with change as our technology continuously evolves. Machine speeds should continue to increase with paper quality ever improving. Machines should be capable of occupying less space and be highly automated and controlled. The environment will be protected with mills controlling their own processes and all their related corrosion and waste disposal problems. The engineering concerns today may shift to new concerns in the future. Will papermaking still remain an art as this future evolves? Probably, but not without some very sophisticated controls and machinery. Will many topics of the 1995 Engineering Conference, like those from 1946, still be discussed in 2046? Most likely. ■

