

SAN FRANCISCO SECTION THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS



NOVEMBER 1976

NEWSLETTER

DIANA L. BROWN 415-768-0916 Editor

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1976
COCKTAILS — 6:00 PM
DINNER — 7:00 PM
SPEAKER — 8:00 PM

FACULTY CLUB
U.C. — BERKELEY

SYNTHETIC FUEL FROM COAL

BY E.L. EKHOLM, BECHTEL CORPORATION

The United States is primarily dependent on natural gas and petroleum products for its energy needs although a substantial quantity of coal is burned for electric power generation. Our supplies of natural gas are now declining and this trend will probably continue. Today we import about half of our petroleum needs and by the turn of the century we will have to look to synthetic products to supply a portion of our needs for gas, gasoline and such items as heating oil, diesel and jet fuels.

Aside from the removal of ash and sulfur, the conversion of coal to synthetic gas and liquids is primarily a matter of incorporating additional hydrogen into the coal structure. This is a difficult and expensive process, but it can be done: in some cases there is commercial technology and in others the technology is now being developed.

This talk will review the status of the technologies for producing pipeline quality gas and for producing lower quality gas commonly called industrial fuel gas, which could be substituted by industry for the natural gas it now consumes. The current status of the technologies for producing synthetic crude oil from coal will also be described.

We know synthetic fuels will be expensive, but since there is no synthetic fuel industry in the United States today, cost projections are speculative. The major elements of the cost of synthetic fuels will be presented based on what we now know.

Dinner will be chicken saute au-vain blank for \$7.50 each.

PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE:

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL:

E.A.P. 101-575

TONI WILSON
(415) 261-3341 BY
NOVEMBER 12, 1976

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1976
LADIES NIGHT
COCKTAILS — 6:00 PM
DINNER — 7:00 PM
SPEAKER — 8:00 PM

SPENGER'S FISH GROTTO
1919 - 4th STREET
BERKELEY
(University AVENUE EXIT)

MEET MISTER BONSAI

NELSON DENNIS, SAN LEANDRO, CALIFORNIA

Bonsai originated in China and then spread to Japan. The objective of growing bonsai is to duplicate in miniature a tree growing in its natural environment where due to climatic conditions and the topography of the land it grows into a picturesque form.

They may be a single tree or in groups, upright or windswept, or even a creation of one's own imagination. The five basic forms of bonsai are cascade, semi-cascade, formal upright, informal upright and slanting and may be referred to as green in a bowl.

Nelson recommends reading "The Japanese Art of Miniature Trees and Landscapes" by Yuji Yoshimura for bonsai enthusiasts as well as going to the library and joining a club for instructions on raising bonsai.

Nelson, manager of a men's clothing store, has actively been pursuing his hobby of growing bonsai since the fall of 1961 "when his wife signed him up in the East Bay Bonsai Society". Since then he has been president of the society twice and wife Lillian has served as secretary.

He has appeared on TV, lectured on bonsai at the Oakland museum and collaborated on designs for the California Spring Garden and Home Show with Henry Matsutani, the foremost Japanese landscape designer in this area. He will demonstrate the techniques of training and trimming the bonsai trees.

Dinner will be sauted Prawns or Veal Parmesan for \$7.50 each.

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL:

TONI WILSON
(415) 261-3341 BY
DECEMBER 6, 1976

JANUARY 13, 1977

(LOCATION TO BE GIVEN LATER)

MR. MILTON LEVINSON, DIRECTOR OF NUCLEAR POWER DIVISION ELECTRIC POWER RESEARCH INSTITUTE — PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA

EDITOR'S REVIEW *

The September 30th meeting held at Spenger's Fish Grotto was a successful kick-off for the S.F. Section. Mr. Rick Visoria gave a very informative presentation of the "Minimum Energy Dwelling" concept as well as fielding numerous questions from the audience.

Several members were slated to receive their 50-year pins. Everett D. Howe and Aubrey P. Ames received their pins at the meeting. Other to receive their pins are: Walter B. Jones, Leone H. Chamberlain, Vivian F. Estcourt, James N. Landis and Raymond B. Plass. **CONGRATULATIONS!!**

Shown in the picture is Erland Persson, the Section Chairman and Dean Scott, Program Arrangements Chairman congratulating the happy winner of a bottle of "Cold Duck".

We are expecting to award 3 more 50-year pins at the November 18th meeting. Hope to see you there!!



NOTICE OF CANCELLATION

The meeting scheduled for October 21st "Critical Role of Protective Coating in Nuclear Power Facilities" by T.G. "Gerry" Cullen, has been cancelled due to the small number of reservations.

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY FUNDRAISING DINNERS

The Woman's Auxiliary will hold several dinners in November to raise money for the ASME Scholarship and Student Loan Funds:

DATE	PLACE
Saturday, Nov. 6	Chockie Residence, San Jose
Saturday, Nov. 6	Flock, Cochran and Steinert Residences (Progressive Dinner), San Jose
Saturday, Nov. 13	Welch Residence, San Mateo
Saturday, Nov. 13	Rose, Remillard and Rubio Residences (Progressive Dinner), Saratoga
Saturday, Nov. 20	Merrill Residence, Walnut Creek

All ASME members and their spouses and guests are invited to attend one of these dinners at \$7.50 per person (deductible). All proceeds will go to the National ASME Woman's Auxiliary for donation to their Scholarship and Student Loan Funds.

If you are unable to attend one of these dinners, any tax-deductible contribution to the educational funds will be deeply appreciated. Make checks payable to "ASME Woman's Auxiliary, San Francisco Section."

To make a dinner reservation, a contribution, or for further information, please contact Mrs. Ray Remillard, 12802 Glen Brae Drive, Saratoga, CA 95070; telephone (408) 252-3430. Reservations close one week prior to the date of the dinner.

MOUNT DIABLO SECTION

The Mount Diablo Section of ASME is organizing the 23rd Annual San Francisco Bay Area Technical Divisions' Conference next year.

Topic: The Future of Automotive Propulsion
Location: Hilton Inn at Oakland International Airport
Date: February 3, 1977 (Thursday)

SAN MATEO COUNTY SUB-SECTION

DATE: November 11, 1976
PLACE: Holiday Inn, 1101 Shoreway Drive, Belmont
SUBJECT: Water Conservation
SPEAKER: J.A. Wade from California Water Supply
TIME: 5:30 PM - No Host Cocktails — 6:30 PM - Buffet Dinner
RESERVATIONS: Make check for \$7.50, payable to ASME, Sue Gehring c/o Floyd E. Welch Associates, P.O. Box 5407, San Mateo, CA 94407
RESERVATIONS TO BE RECEIVED BEFORE NOVEMBER 5th.

Professional Civil Engineering or EIT preparation courses will begin the first week of January, 1977 at Menlo College in Menlo Park. Each course meets one night each week from 7:00 PM til 10:00 PM for 13 weeks. Cost: \$115.00 (\$95 for CSPE members, \$75 for full-time students). To Enroll: send your name, address, daytime telephone number & check to: P E Registration Program, P.O. Box 911, San Carlos, California 94070. For more information, call Michael A. Lindeburg (415) 593-9731.

A "Product Liability Seminar" will be presented November 12 - 13 in San Francisco. The program will be devoted to an exploration of the ways in which the law regulates and affects product design, with an emphasis on product design regulation — usually done by the imposition of absolute liability upon a manufacturer for defective products.

Another emphasis will be various aspects of liability prevention that are essential in order to properly reconstruct the cause of an accident, determine the various lines of investigation, and discover the legally vulnerable points to be considered. The techniques used to establish a measure of the risks involved will be discussed. For further information: Call Continuing Education in Engineering, UC Ext, (415) 642-4151.

NEWSLETTER

A. Are you receiving your newsletter on time? If not, please contact Erland Persson, 415-835-3000, Ext. 365.
B. If you receive information that should be included in this newsletter send it to:
Diana L. Brown, Bechtel Corp., P.O. Box 3965, San Francisco, CA 94119

Information for the December newsletter must be in the hands of the publicity chairman not later than November 4 & December 9 for the January edition.

ASME — SAN FRANCISCO SECTION OFFICERS 1976-77.

Chairman E.A. (Erland) Persson, Ph. (415) 835-3000, Ext. 365
Vice Chairman J.W. (John) Sale, Ph. (415) 781-4211, Ext. 1896
Secretary C.D. (Dan) Mote, Jr. Ph. (415) 642-2544
Treasurer J.B. (Jerry) Fischenich, Ph. (415) 635-4742
Members-at-Large J.A. (Jack) Bailey, Ph. (415) 284-5193
..... P.H. (Paul) Garbarini

The Nominating Committee members have been inadvertently overlooked and shall be listed with the other S.F. Section officers in future Newsletters. They are:

James V. Rocca
W. L. Dornaus
J.A. Greenland
B.B. Garretson
P.T. Nishikawa