

3-26-74

The Philadelphia Rubber Group, Inc. first became an idea to about twenty men on January 10th, 1945, when they met to discuss an organization to promote the knowledge of rubber technology. A rather remarkable 226 persons attended the first meeting on March 9th to hear Dr. A. A. Somerville of the R.T. Vanderbilt Company discuss "Getting Technical Work Done".

Much of the initial success of the Group must be attributed to the early officers and to 20 or more companies who contributed financially. Of the Officers during the first 10 years, a few are still actively with us. The problem of locating suitable meeting locations, good speakers and all the other details for the early meetings consumed much time and energy in those days of meager experience.

Some of the speakers during the first ten years reflect the high quality of the technical sessions and a great many of these persons achieved fame and respect in our industry. Some of the early and distinguished speakers included Dr. B. S. Garvey, George Villa, Dr. W. R. Smith, Neil Catton, Roger Bascom, George Vacca, D. W. J. Sparks, W. J. Spears, Dr. N. V. Seeger, Simon Collier and Dr. S. D. Gehman. Through the years the PRG directors have tried to maintain excellent technical programs recognizing that this is the major purpose for the group's existence. The attendance and interest in the programs have continually confirmed that the membership is in agreement.

All rubber men seem to be real sports so it was natural that the first golf outing was held only a year later on September 20, 1946 at the Oak Terrace Country Club. Only 130 members attended the first outing but it soon became a most popular attraction. For the next twenty five years statistics would show some

remarkable low scores, high scores, lost golf balls, prizes and many other interesting facts. Nowadays the outing requires two golf courses to accommodate the persons who participate in the following this small evasive sphere that is so popular a product of our industry.

To further promote rubber technology a basic course was sponsored at Villanova University which started on February 5, 1955 with an enrollment of 169 and 25 had to be turned away. The lecture given at these classes were substantially compiled by A. J. DiMaggio onto a bound text and copies were given to all participants. Several thousand copies were printed and orders were received from all over the world. At the American Chemical Society meeting in the fall of 1955 our group was host and gave copies of this same text to all registrants.

The group officially affiliated with the American Chemical Society in May 27, 1947 and became incorporated in April 1961. Both steps can be recognized as significant progress toward a stable and enduring organization.

In November 1955 and again in October 1965 the group sponsored the national meeting of the American Chemical Society. In 1955 Dr. B. S. Garvey was the chairman and A. J. DiMaggio was Vice Chairman. In 1965 our group Chairman Ken Quinn was chairman of the local arrangements committee and his assistant was Ralph Graff. In 1968 the National Meeting was hosted by the Philadelphia Rubber Group and Ed Brown was local arrangements chairman. All meetings were outstanding and very well attended.

Those who attended the outing of 1959 were amazed to find themselves serenaded by a remarkable musical band. Without fanfare a small group of our fellow chemists, salesmen, etc. had met informally and organized themselves into a

band. Each year since that great day, the same stalwart men have provided real pleasure and they are really wonderful. To the best of our knowledge, the Philadelphia Rubber Group has the only regular band and they are certainly the pride of our group.

Under the direction of Henry Remsburg the Philadelphia Rubber Group Newsletter was started in 1960 with Ken Chester as editor. The Newsletter has served a very useful purpose ever since and the future will surely reveal its growth and expansion. All of those who have contributed to the effort deserve special praise for the results of the time they have spent.

In 1967 the Philadelphia Rubber group transferred its \$500.00 scholarship from the University of Akron which it had sponsored for several years at the graduate level to an undergraduate scholarship at a college located in the greater Philadelphia area effective with the 1968 school year.

The award is to go to a 3rd or 4th year student, who will be entering his last year of undergraduate study as a major in chemistry or chemical engineering.

The 1974 scholarship will be awarded in the name of Ben Garvey Memorial Scholarship.

The Chairmen of this group are regularly elected by the membership and normally serve in all official capacities. Under this arrangement each chairman has devoted three years to its growth and well-being and has spent many hours of his own time to insure that all activities go smoothly. As a measure of the member's appreciation all past chairmen were honored at the meeting of April 29, 1960. Appropriate plaques and life membership cards were presented to these men, most of whom were present, and their names are listed below

1945	R. S. Hanslick
1946	W. B. Monroe
1947	L. K. Youse
1948	W. B. Dunlap, Jr.
1949	W. F. Abbey
1950	T. J. Gorman
1951	H. J. Reid
1952	T. W. Elkin
1953	G. J. Wyrrough
1954	A. J. DiMaggio
1955	M. A. Youker
1956	R. J. Salyerds
1957	J. R. Mills
1958	R. A. Garrett
1959	R. S. Graff

Then in the following years the list of chairmen grew with the addition of those listed below

1960	H. C. Remsburg
1961	R. N. Hendricksen
1962	R. M. Kerr
1963	W. J. Macomber
1964	K. E. Chester
1965	K. F. Quinn
1966	E. C. Brown
1967	T. N. Loser
1968	C. J. Slaser, Jr.
1969	R. N. Daly
1970	R. McElroy
1971	C. R. Simpson
1972	A. H. Johnson
1973	R. E. Connell, Jr.

On April 9 1970, the first joint meeting of the New York and Philadelphia Rubber groups was held at the Holiday Inn at US-1, North Brunswick, New Jersey.

The past 26 years have demonstrated the need and the usefulness of our active Philadelphia Rubber Group. Surely the future will offer an even larger growth in benefits to the rubber industry by our members.

A. H. Enders