



Guy Rorabaugh

President of the American Society of Sugar Beet Technologists for the biennium 1962-63 is Guy Rorabaugh. Mr. Rorabaugh is General Chemist, Holly Sugar Corporation with headquarters at Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Silver Jubilee of the Society¹

DEWEY STEWART²

According to custom, the President of our Society addresses the members at the opening session of the General Meeting. This is a privilege for which I ask your indulgence.

Consideration has been given to the presentation of some highlights of accomplishments in sugar beet research since my initiation to this fascinating endeavor in 1925. After reviewing the program with its sessions of technical reports in several disciplines and the symposia on topics pertaining to production and processing, it was felt that my remarks would not serve as a proper prelude to the information that will be ably presented during the Twelfth General Meeting of our Society. I have elected to discuss the history of the Society (1937-1962) and its accomplishments rather than accomplishments in sugar beet research.

The American Society of Sugar Beet Technologists was organized 25 years ago the 7th of January. It seems fitting that we take notice of this silver anniversary. Our Society had an humble beginning in what amounted to local meetings of a small group of investigators. It has grown strong through activity and has attained prominence through service to one of our principal agricultural crops and to one of our most progressive industries. Our Society has served as a useful and effective forum for the exchange of ideas and the presentation of research on problems pertaining to sugar beet production and processing technology.

Some of the early history of our Society can be obtained from the Proceedings of the first meeting, but a richer source of information concerning the background and events leading up to the organization of the Society is the store of memories of those who participated in its establishment. Dr. Harvey E. Brewbaker gave an account of the early development of our Society in his Presidential Address at the Fifth General Meeting in 1948.

The American Society of Sugar Beet Technologists grew out of conferences on sugar beet research which were held at Fort Collins, Colorado, in 1935, 1936, and 1937. These conferences, designated "Round Tables", were sponsored and organized by the Agricultural Extension Service of Colorado State University

¹ Presidential Address, American Society of Sugar Beet Technologists, Twelfth General Meeting, Denver, Colorado, February 5, 1962.

² Leader, Sugar Beet Investigations, Tobacco and Sugar Crops Research Branch, Crops Research Division, Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Beltsville, Maryland.

in cooperation with the local office of Sugar Beet Investigations, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and conducted with the encouragement of the beet sugar companies.

At the banquet of the Third Round Table, unanimous opinion was expressed in favor of enlarging the Conferences to include all sugar beet research activity in North America. Thus the concept of a Society of sugar beet technologists had its inception in the festive atmosphere of the "banquet table"—probably an outstanding feature of the Round Tables.

Action was taken at the closing session of the Third Round Table, January 7, 1937, to organize the American Society of Sugar Beet Technologists. A President, a Vice President, and a Secretary-Treasurer were elected; and Salt Lake City was chosen as the first convention city. A Committee was charged with the duty of drafting a constitution and bylaws.

The Constitution was adopted at the first meeting, January 11-13, 1938, in Salt Lake City. It was indicated that "The object of the Society shall be to foster all phases of sugar beet and beet sugar research and act as clearing house for the exchange of ideas resulting from such work."

Membership was open to any individual or business engaged in or interested in the object of the Society. Dues for individual membership were \$1.50. Company dues were based on number of factories—which apparently was taken as an indication of their ability to pay.

Article 3 of the Bylaws pertained to "Collection of Dues" and read as follows: "The Secretary-Treasurer of the American Society of Sugar Beet Technologists shall distribute to each member a program listing papers to be presented." The program, apparently, was in some manner expected to stimulate payment of dues. The present Secretary-Treasurer continues to send out programs, but (as you know) he employs a more positive approach to collection of dues! The Society has just adopted extensive revisions in the Constitution.

The Proceedings of the first meeting of the Society, January 11-13, 1938, records 140 members present from 15 States and 2 Canadian Provinces; 4 members were absent. In the original organization there were 5 Sections of the Society. Only 1 has been added since the first meeting.

Our Vice President, J. C. Keane, was in attendance at the first meeting in 1938 and served as Chairman of Section E, Chemistry. There was only one session of this Section with only two

papers—one by the Section Chairman himself and one by Dr. F. R. Bachler. There is no record of the attendance at this session; but it was a significant event! Previous meetings of the Round Tables pertained only to breeding, agronomy, and other phases of production research. The union of chemists and factory technologists with investigators in biological disciplines was new for a society concerned with sugar beet research.

The participation of factory technologists in our Society has been an outstanding development. At this meeting of our Society, Section E, Chemistry and Factory Operations, will meet for six sessions—four comprising 31 technical papers, one symposium on chemistry, and two symposia on factory operations. This is a remarkable growth for Section E which had only one session consisting of two papers in 1938.

At the first meeting of our Society in 1938, greetings were sent to the Institut International de Recherches Betteravieres (I.I.R.B.) stating that our Society was in session and wished success for their Congress, which was scheduled at that time. At our 1960 meeting, 2 years ago in Salt Lake City, a committee report was accepted that expressed favor for some form of joint meeting with I.I.R.B. and suggested that the first meeting be held in England in 1961, the second in United States and Canada in 1964, and similar meetings on a 3- to 5-year rotating basis. It was specified that the joint meetings would not constitute any form of integration of the two Societies. Our Secretary was instructed by the President to transmit our wishes to the Secretary of I.I.R.B. for consideration.

The proposal for the joint meeting was accepted, with the first meeting to be held in London, England, May 19, 1961, following the Summer Congress of I.I.R.B. The meeting was held in the Conference Rooms of the International Sugar Council, with arrangements made through the courtesy of the British Sugar Corporation. The Report of the First Joint Meeting has been issued.

Five members of our Society attended: Mr. B. E. Easton, Canada and Dominion Sugar Company; Dr. F. H. Peto, British Columbia Sugar Refining Company Ltd.; Mr. Bion Tolman, Utah-Idaho Sugar Company; and Dr. C. W. Doxtator and Dr. R. E. Finkner of American Crystal Sugar Company. As President of the Society I made reservations for attendance, but illness prevented travel. My remarks were presented by Mr. Tolman and were included in the Report of the Meeting.

Thus, our Society--which received only casual notice at the time of birth--has grown in strength, and its influence now reaches beyond the shores of this continent. We can point with pride to our Society's past and recognize its present importance as a forum for the exchange of ideas and results of sugar beet research. At present we have a membership of 633 residing in 35 states and 20 countries. Our excellent Journal serves as a messenger to 59 countries!

The recognition of 1962 as the Silver Jubilee of our Society should be accepted as a milestone along our journey to a greater future of service to sugar beet research.