



THE INSPECTOR

DECEMBER 1983

THE WAY IT WAS

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The end of the year is a good time to look back, to assess and evaluate; to derive satisfaction from accomplishments and to look forward with enthusiasm about new beginnings, innovations and trends in an organization.

With that in mind, research has been done through the files of the Electrical Inspectors Association, providing food for thought and perhaps some nostalgia.

It was back at the beginning of 1947 that a letter was sent out to all the inspectors in the province, asking them to attend a meeting to be held on Friday, February 7, 1947, the purpose being to decide whether or not they wished to band themselves together into an organization.

The meeting was duly held at 509 Burrard Street at 8 p.m. The gathering chose R. Hall to occupy the chair.

The records indicate that the original objectives would closely follow those of the International Association of Electrical Inspectors, which, basically, would provide for the formulation of standards for the safe installation and use of electrical materials, devices and appliances.

L. H. Miller, Chief Electrician of the City of Vancouver, in an address, underlined the aim of promoting close cooperation between inspectors,

(continued from page 1)

The original motion to form the association was made by Lance Robson, then Chief Provincial Inspector, seconded by A. C. Bell of Burnaby, and was carried unanimously.

On the motion of Messrs. Sanderson and Gracey, L. H. Miller was suggested as the first President and Chairman of the group.

Chosen for Treasurer was Lance Robson and the Secretary named was R. Hall.

And so the Association came into being.

One of the first pieces of business was drawing up a Constitution and Bylaws. A committee was named for this purpose consisting of W. E. Leppard, D. J. Sanderson, V. Rolfe, A. C. Bell, L. A. Hume and R. Hall.

Second only to that important job, the decision was made to appoint a study group to determine how the Association could be of value to the inspectors. Messrs. Leppard, Hume, Hall, Mann, A. Gracey and J. Lowe were chosen. The first assignment was the study of Section 512 of the Code.

By the April 1, 1947 meeting the Constitution and Bylaws were submitted by the committee. Members at that meeting represented Vancouver, West Vancouver, North Vancouver, Burnaby, Saanich, Port Coquitlam and Surrey. The members went over the document clause by clause and adopted it. Annual dues were set.

At the May meeting the suggestion was made that associate memberships be allowed, including various large companies like the telephone company, power companies, manufacturers, consulting engineers, distributors and electrical associations. Members objected to the proposed fees for such companies, and the matter was left unresolved.

It was in September of that year that the International Inspectors Association asked the group to affiliate.

The first Annual Conference was held on January 12, 1948, at which time officers chosen were L. H. Miller as President; Lance Robson as Vice-President; Secretary, R. Hall and Treasurer, J. Walker. The first budget was submitted on March 4, 1948, and it was at that time that an increase in fees was scheduled.

Even a cursory look at the Minutes back then indicates that the Association, at its meetings, disseminated a great deal of information which evidently was not available to inspectors from any other source. Most members now would not be bothered to read the pages of detailed material, understandably.

It was in May of 1948 that the companies who had been approached accepted the idea of associate membership and each one paid \$25.00 for that privilege, making the financial structure much more sound.

In August of 1948 the Journal of Commerce devoted its lead editorial to "Praise for Electrical Inspectors", which said, in part:

"Each inspector, working in the public interest, is a safety expert, a consultant, a teacher and -- in many cases -- a law enforcement officer during inspection not only on new installations but on additions to existing ones."

This comment was repeated by speakers at various times in later years.

The Vancouver Electrical Association (which was the forerunner of the Electrical Contractors Association) was very active in the Association in 1948 and on December 10 of that year hosted the first Christmas party.

(continued from page 2)

By June of 1949 the Association was established enough that it voted to hold a two-day conference in October. The conference was held at the Hotel Georgia and featured such speakers as L. H. Miller, Lance Robson and J. R. Walker. On the Conference registration forms input was requested from members on what they would like to hear. Probably partly as a result of that input subjects discussed were "Radiant Heating", "Groundings of Electrical Circuits", "Circuit Breakers and Control Equipment", "Approved Wiring for Hazardous Locations" and "The Construction Program of the B. C. Power Commission."

For the Conference the Ladies' Entertainment Convener was Mrs. L. Robson, assisted by Mrs. J. R. Walker, Mrs. J. R. Dooley and Mrs. M. Davies. One printed program stated boldly "Ladies especially welcome".

During the Conference visits were made to Ruskin Plant and to the Neon Products Plant where members were hosted to dinner.

In 1948 the E.I.A. was the only electrical inspectors association in Canada and that conference was the first in all of Canada.

After the Conference a comprehensive "docket" was produced containing the information which had been given on the various subjects.

The two decades which followed would feature such annual conferences.

About 1961 it was considered useful to have some kind of regular communication with the members and the Newsletter was born. Original editors were Eric Ramsden and Clarence Dresser -- both reputed to be energetic "going concerns." They continued to produce the Newsletter for many years. It was in September of 1978, when Bill Cragg had become the editor, that the logo first appeared.

Nostalgia becomes mixed with incredulity when reading the financial items in the Minutes. The Code in 1947 was available for \$1.50. Annual fees were originally set at \$2.00 (a figure which was later found to be too low to support solvency). The receipt for the rent of the Canadian Forestry auditorium was for \$4.00. One program for an annual meeting indicated that the fees for registering, including TWO dinners, was \$4.00!

Well, times, wages and prices have changed and so has the organization.....

In the beginning there was a casualness not only in the gathering together of inspectors and associated trades, but also in the dissemination of information. Members came to meetings often to complain -- since there seemed to be no other way to make themselves heard.

Today there are regular informational bulletins sent out to all concerned. Today, with the exceptional population growth in the province, and the consequent increase in the number of inspectors, it is a different world.

In keeping with other parts of our society, the Association has become more formalized. Today we have representatives on the Electric Wiring and Equipment Safety Committee (Tom Gardner) and the Electric Safety Review Board (Don MacIntyre) both of whom work constantly and efficiently and through whom requests for change can be made.

The Association itself has gained in stature so that today direct representation can be made -- with the strong voice of the organization -- to those in authority when and if it is thought necessary that such action be taken.

(continued from page 3)

Education is still and will continue to be a very important facet of the Association activity -- as witness the successful and well-attended seminar held late in 1982. At regular meetings speakers are featured who often bring the far future into the present for members and keep them abreast of new developments within their field.

Space does not permit comments on the various "movers and shakers" over the years, but some of the names mentioned above will evoke memories.

We still have "movers and shakers" in an Executive of capable, loyal and totally sincere people, who give of their time and energy so that the Association will grow and prosper.

At this time, the Association is proud to present the list of current members. These are the people who support the organization and who have made achievements possible by their continuing interest. We salute them!

INSPECTOR MEMBERS

G. E. Armstrong, New Westminster
 Jack Ball, North Vancouver
 C. R. Barker, Duncan
 William H. Bell, New Westminster
 W. Gordon Brand, Vancouver
 S. Colosie, Vancouver
 Art Cox, Surrey
 Arnold Dammer, Vancouver
 H. Doerksen, Pitt Meadows
 E. Fata, Richmond
 W. Faulkner, North Vancouver
 Dave P. Fitger, Port Coquitlam
 Tom Gardner, Richmond
 David Hansen, Aldergrove
 J. Holdom, Burnaby
 W. Hopkins, Chilliwack
 A. Horwell, North Vancouver
 Ron Innes, New Westminster
 D. H. Jackson, Burnaby
 W. J. Hancock, Langley
 K. Jessen, Squamish
 Alfred G. Lam, Vancouver
 J. N. Laminski, Vancouver
 J. Law, Vancouver
 D. Lessard, New Westminster

H. Lindsay, West Vancouver
 A. Litjens, Surrey
 A. R. Luck, Vancouver
 D. MacIntyre, Surrey
 W. J. Malcolm, Burnaby
 E. Mortimer, Burnaby
 Jack Muir, Burnaby
 Jim Muir, Surrey
 George Mysel, Maple Ridge
 T. Norseworthy, Revelstoke
 Hugh Oliver, New Westminster
 A. Pietracupa, Vancouver
 G. L. Pieschek, Terrace
 R. Porcina, Chilliwack
 H. Reichel, Vernon
 A. Robertson, Richmond
 W. Ross Murray, Richmond
 J. G. Steeves, Vancouver
 W. S. Torrans, Terrace
 M. Van der Horst, Richmond
 George A. H. Ward, Vancouver
 Gus Wendril, Richmond
 A. Wensler, Fernie
 Vincent Yu, Vancouver

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

W. Andrews, Burnaby
 Ole Ashaug, Vancouver
 Roy Bartholomew, Vancouver
 John N. Bateman, Burnaby
 R. Beenham, Richmond
 Bob Cuell, Vancouver
 G. T. Cameron, Prince George
 Rick Derek, Delta
 T. A. Fudger, Burnaby

Ron Gaw, Burnaby
 Bill Gilmartin, Vancouver
 Domenic Giordano, Vancouver
 John L. Graham, North Vancouver
 Rod Gray, Burnaby
 C. W. Henderson, Ioco
 Wayne Henry, Vancouver
 Bob Hewitson, North Vancouver
 Newton Hockey, North Vancouver

Associate Members (continued)

J. Howell, Richmond
 Victor Lipp, Burnaby
 Lewis Reinders, Vancouver
 Royce Rich, West Vancouver
 Harold Swift, Burnaby
 Robert Wolff, Richmond
 C. J. Wotten, Vancouver

William G. Morris Pyrotenax, Burnaby
 J. S. Chan, Burnaby
 D. M. Gachallan, Coquitlam
 Peter W. Ridout, Richmond
 D. J. Barnes, Vancouver
 K. V. Knudsen, Vancouver

LIFE MEMBERS

Ralph Burgess, Aldergrove
 Jack Dooley, Oliver
 Eric Duff, Aldergrove
 Fred Moore, Burnaby.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

At the back of this issue is included a copy of the Association's Constitution and Bylaws. It is prepared so that it may be removed and kept by members for their reference.

1984 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

PLEASE RENEW MY MEMBERSHIP IN THE ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS' ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA FOR 1984.

ENCLOSED IS \$25 AS - AN INSPECTOR ____
 AN ASSOCIATE ____

SIGNATURE _____

ADDRESS _____

MAIL TO THE ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS ASSOCIATION
 P.O. Box 80716
 BURNABY, B.C. V5H 3Y1

ELECTRICAL SHOWPLACE '84

If you have not already seen some of the advertising, you soon will, for the Electrical Service League of British Columbia is going all out in promotion of the Electrical Showplace '84 which will happen at B. C. Place Stadium April 3rd to 5th, 1984.

It is an industry-wide exposition for the province. It will be run by the electrical industry, for the benefit of the electrical industry, with no external profit motive.

ESL hopes to promote the common business interest and improve the business conditions of the electrical industry. This Show will help promote and market electrical products and services in British Columbia.

Fifteen staff members have been named and are at work, including Trade Show Manager Jack Olson of the ESL.

Already many of the arrangements are in place. In the months to go to before the Show opens there will be consolidation, including decisions on the kind of participation that will come from the eight groups acting as endorsers (including the Electrical Inspectors Association).

It is hoped that Jack Olson will speak at the next general meeting of the Association at which time members will be given printed brochures, calendars, etc. to assist in publicizing the Show.

No effort is being spared to ensure the Show's success. It is important to the Association and its members. Keep tuned for further details.

Seminar Planned

The Association is making plans for a second Seminar to be held early in 1984. It is hoped that the same amount of interest shown for the one in 1982 will be experienced for this second Seminar.

Initial committees have been set in place for the Seminar. Fred Moore

will be in charge of facilities, with George Ward, Tom Fudger and Rick Forcina in charge of preparing the program.

Final definitive arrangements will be made when the committees have submitted their reports.

General Meeting

The next general meeting of the Association will be held on Monday, November 28, at the Y M C A building, 180-6th Street, New Westminster. Jack Olson will be there to talk about Showcase '84.



A CHRISTMAS THOUGHT

Is Christmas pagan? Is it wrong?
What does it really mean?
Is it over-commercialized
As many folks maintain?

Does it distort the birthday theme?
What good's it anyway?
Should we dispense with the whole thing
And sweep such dreams away?

Well.....

In a world that's torn with strife and war
Where greed and hate hold sway,
Be thankful that just once a year
These evils slink away.

For just a time there's warmth and smiles,
Goodwill to fellow men.
With hurts forgiven and grace bestowed
We value friends again.

The mellowing, if well spread out,
Could bring an end to war;
While each, in his own little sphere,
Would hate and grasp no more.

E. F.



The members of the Executive of the Electrical Inspectors Association wish all a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS, a rewarding time with family and valued friends, and a time of renewal of ideals and objectives.

Joe Laminski.....Alfie Pietracupa.....George Ward.....Fred Moore.....Ernie Mortimer.....Al Horwell.....Tom Gardner.....Rick Porcina.....Tom Fudger.....Peter Ridout.....Andy Robertson.

