

Minutes of the Seventh Annual Convention of the  
Wisconsin Chapter of the Western Section, I.A.E.I.  
held at the Conway Hotel, Appleton, October 18 & 19, 1932

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 A. M. October 18 by Chairman V. E. Anderson. On motion the roll call was dispensed with with the understanding that the registration list would be considered as taking the place of the roll call.

Mayor John Goodland, Jr. of Appleton extended greetings of the city to the delegates, advised them to forget politics, enter into the business of the convention, secure what benefits they could and to enjoy themselves at the meetings. He called attention to the fact that Appleton is a city of 26,000 people, is seventy-five years old and that it is the site of the first hydroelectric central station plant in the world. He also mentioned the industries and activities of the city. Mr. Harvey Gorges, inspector of Shorewood, responded to the address of welcome. He assured the mayor of our appreciation of the welcome and that the delegates would do their best to profit by the convention.

Chairman V. E. Anderson in his address called attention to the fact that during these times when budgets have been curtailed and duties of inspectors increased, there is particular need for attention on the part of the inspectors to the changing conditions. There is need for knowledge of changes in the work to be done, knowledge of changes in materials and equipment available and in the way in which electrical contractors are taking care of their work. He urged participation in the affairs of the chapter, the convention and in other activities such as vocational schools.

The report of the secretary-treasurer was adopted as read. The chairman appointed a Nominating Committee consisting of W. A. Haig, Chairman, G. L. Rothe, J. H. Mande and an Auditing Committee consisting of G. L. Kruecke, H. P. Hemsing and W. G. Patterson. A Committee on Resolutions and to consider the advisability and possibility of holding the 1933 convention in Chicago was appointed and consisted of F. R. Daniel, John Poehlmann, Glenn Fiedler and Chas. Scheffler.

The reports of various committees including the Membership Committee, Materials and Devices Committee, Statistical Committee, Review Committee, Public Relations Committee, Code Committee and Ordinances and Records Committee were read and adopted.

Mr. W. S. Ehlert, Tri-Neon Sign Company, talked on "The Manufacturers' View of the Neon Sign Problem". He made some rather definite suggestions as to the type of code rule which might well be put into effect. He suggested dangers of fire hazards caused by inadequate wiring to signs and also discussed the matter of radio trouble which may be due to too high voltage on a transformer, too great a tubelength or too low a voltage in the transformer secondary. The morning session adjourned at 12:15 P. M.

The afternoon session was called to order at 1:45 P. M. Mr. I. L. Illing, Lighting Engineer, T. M. E. R. & L. Company, talked on the subject of "Outdoor Lighting". He mentioned the various types of outdoor lighting which are being used, namely, protective lighting, factory and yard floor lighting, advertising lighting, lighting for beautification, such as lighting of private estates, lighting of buildings, etc. and sports' lighting. He discussed some of the fundamentals and called attention to the fact that in outdoor lighting it is impossible to do very much with anything except direct lighting. He stated that the amount of light necessary is determined by consideration of the size of the object to be observed, the speed of the object and the contrast in color between the object and the background. He also urged attention to the matter of proper size of wiring due to the necessarily increased space and somewhat larger load. The equipment must be maintained if satisfactory results are to be obtained from it. Four general recommendations which he made for outdoor lighting systems were: first, to use enough light for the particular application; second, to keep the light out of the eyes of the users so far as possible; third, to use large enough wire to eliminate excessive drop, and four, to maintain the equipment in good condition so that there is not too much light lost in the equipment itself.

The secretary, Mr. Tousley, talked on problems in connection with the International Association. He gave the report of the various sectional meetings and called attention to the fact that the attendance had been very satisfactory. He discussed various problems which had been mentioned and called particular attention to the desirability of members making proper reports on fires reported as of electrical origin, and also urged consideration of the subject of reinspections. He discussed the matter of broadening the sphere of interest of the inspectors, commented on the fact that inspectors are now becoming interested in other things besides the simple matter of checking over wiring installations and deciding whether or not they conform to the definite code rules.

Mr. J. F. Beal of the Underwriters' Laboratories was the next speaker. As secretary of the Illinois Chapter he first issued an invitation to all Wisconsin members to attend meetings of the Illinois Chapter. Arrangements are to be made to see that members in Wisconsin are notified of the Illinois meetings.

Mr. Beal discussed the procedure of the Underwriters' Laboratories and called attention to the fact that there are seven departments in the laboratory of which the electrical is the oldest. He discussed various types of tests and some of the materials and devices which are tested. He explained briefly the tests which are made on some of the materials and gave us an idea as to what an Underwriters' Laboratories' approval implies.

Mr. W. E. Schubert, Engineer of the Wisconsin Michigan Power Company, talked on the subject of "The First Hydroelectric Central Station". He gave some of the history of the first station

which was started in Appleton and began operation September 30, 1882. He talked briefly on the history of this station and then on the way in which the replica of the station was decided upon and built. He then introduced Mr. W. D. Kurz, a member of the Wisconsin Chapter, who was the first operator of this plant. Mr. Kurz gave the group some of his recollections of the early days of the operation of this plant and told of early experiences with various problems including that of automatic overload protection. Following the discussion and talks a visit was made to the replica of the first plant, to the exhibit of early electrical devices and to the first house which was wired in Appleton.

The day's activities were closed by a dinner in the Crystal Room of the Conway Hotel. Mayor Goodland presided as toastmaster and the local committee had provided interesting entertainment. Dancing followed the dinner.

The Wednesday morning session at 9:45 was started by a talk by Mr. V. E. Anderson on "The Inspector - Job or Position". Mr. Anderson called attention to the fact that an electrical inspector may have either a job or a position, depending upon how he studies his work and how much attention he pays to matters of education and cooperation. He advocated the extension of the work of reinspection and urged that all members study their jobs and possibilities.

Mr. W. S. Boyd was the next speaker and talked on the inspection problems of the past and those of the present. He discussed some of the early difficulties which led to the organization of the Western Association of Electrical Inspectors and the growth of the present organization.

The talk was followed by a discussion of early construction methods and procedure by Mr. Kurz and a paper on "The Problems of Reinspection" by Mr. J. A. Poehlmann of the Milwaukee Inspection Department. Mr. Poehlmann's talk was very interesting to members and suggested problems which may well be given attention.

Mr. F. R. Daniel of the First Insurance Rating Bureau gave a short talk on the subject "Why Are You Restricting Wiring Methods?". Mr. Daniel called attention to the fact that in the early days of the industry there was only one or perhaps there were two wiring methods. Later on other types were developed and there has been a tendency towards urging the use of only a few of these types. While it may be true that the standardization on a few types of wiring might be beneficial in the end, it does not seem that it is the function of the inspector, who is expected to be primarily interested in safety, to forbid the use of any wiring method except on the basis that it is not safe.

Mr. J. A. Webb of the Crouse-Hinds Electric Company presented a paper on "Fittings and Devices for Use in Hazardous Locations". He called attention to the fact that when the need for special fittings in hazardous locations was first noted, so-called vapor proof fittings and devices were used. These were

not adapted for use in such locations but were the only ones available. Since then there has been a good deal of development and investigations and now there are various types of fittings which are actually designed and adapted for use in hazardous locations available on the market. He discussed various types of fittings and devices and pointed out where they can be best used.

Several problems which had been submitted were then discussed. The first one was "Must ABC cable be used?". The answer is that any approved cable may be used the same as any approved electrical device which is satisfactory. Some form of protective bushing or device must be used at the end of any section of armored cable to protect the insulation on the wires from abrasion or damage by ends of the metal strips. The proper rule in Order 1305.05 must be observed.

The next question was "Does liquid solder meet the requirements in the code?". While there is no definite statement on this point in the code it seems obvious that liquid solder is not satisfactory since it does not have very great mechanical strength, its electrical resistance is high and it will burn.

The next question was "May BX or armored cable be used in basements?". The answer which was given is that this is a matter which depends upon the actual conditions and must be determined by an actual investigation of the matter of whether or not the basement is damp. The local inspector should decide the question.

The matter of grounding the neutral wire and the raceway system to a common ground electrode even where artificial electrodes must be used was discussed. The sentiment of the meeting was in favor of using a common ground conductor and electrode where there are at least three grounds on the secondary in question.

Under the head of "Unfinished Business" the proposed revised by-laws of the Chapter were adopted. The Legislative Committee made a report to the effect that some progress has been made toward deciding upon proper legislation but advised that there is still a great deal to be done. The members are to be bulletined as to their ideas with regard to the way in which legislative action should be taken.

The Committee on Resolutions reported that proper resolutions be prepared and sent to various individuals and organizations responsible for the success of the meeting, these organizations and individuals to include the local committee, the local Association of Commerce, Chief of the Fire Department, Mayor Goodland, the hotel, The Wisconsin Michigan Power Company, our members, W. D. Kurz, Secretary Boyd of the Western Section and Secretary Tousley of the International Association.

The invitation of the city of Milwaukee to hold next year's convention in Milwaukee was presented. The matter of holding next

year's convention in Chicago in connection with the International Convention was discussed. It was moved and seconded that the committee consider Milwaukee as a meeting place and that we accept the Milwaukee invitation if the Executive Committee does not decide to have the convention in Chicago. Carried. It was moved, seconded and carried that W. D. Kurz be made an honorary member.

The Nominating Committee reported the following: Chairman, H. Gorges; Vice-Chairman, J. Mande; Secretary-Treasurer, J. E. Wise. Members of the Executive Committee: V. E. Anderson, J. Poehlmann, L. Luebke and G. W. Jacobson. It was moved that the report be adopted. The motion was carried. It was then moved that the secretary cast an unanimous ballot for the officers nominated and they be declared elected. The motion was carried.

The Seventh Annual Convention adjourned at 5:00 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,

J. E. Wise  
Secretary-Treasurer

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WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Chapter of the Western Section of the International Association of Electrical Inspectors held its 1932 convention in Appleton, October 18 and 19, and

WHEREAS, the success of the convention and the enjoyment of those in attendance at the convention were materially aided by the efforts of the local convention committee and especially its chairman, Mr. Louis Luebke; the local Association of Commerce; Chief of the Fire Department; the Mayor of Appleton; the management of the Conway Hotel; the Wisconsin Michigan Power Company; the Economy Fuse Company; our member, W. D. Kurz; Secretary Boyd of the Western Section and Secretary Tousley of the International Association, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Wisconsin Chapter express its appreciation of the efforts of these various individuals and organizations and that a copy of this resolution be sent to each.