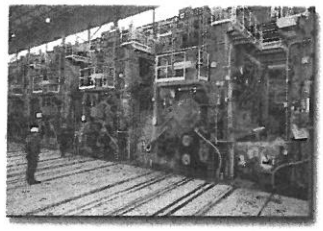
AISE Through the Years

The End of an Era

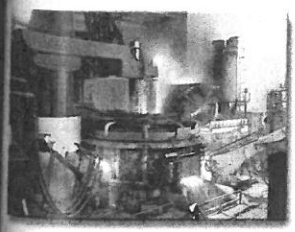
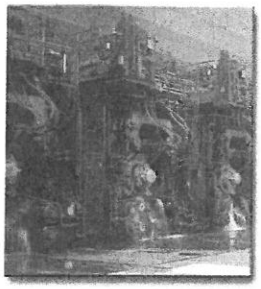


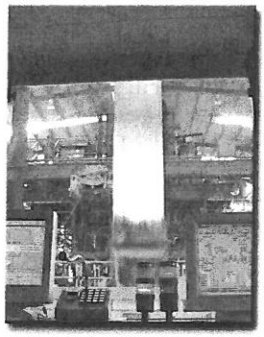



What is the secret of success?

Some will say the secret of success is a well-thought-out plan, a good foundation aimed toward a feasible goal. Others may say that success lies in never giving up, in learning from one's mistakes or in being willing to take risks, to change, to roll with the punches, so to speak. Still others will tell you that time is all it takes to be a success.

Not surprisingly, the success of the Association of Iron and Steel Engineers has arisen from all these factors. Indeed, there has been plenty of time — 96 years, to be exact. There has been a solid foundation and a consistent goal: to advance the technical and engineering phases of the production and processing of iron and steel. And there has been a persistent, if not relentless, effort to become the premier source of information for iron and steel technology, responding to the industry's needs and making whatever changes were necessary.



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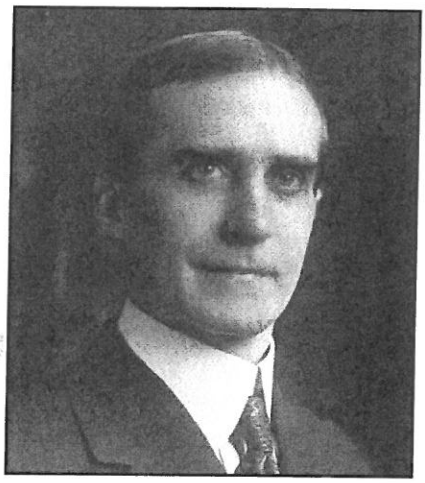
Birth of the Association

AISE began on April 26, 1907, when a group of 28 electrical and mechanical engineers and superintendents from prominent iron and steel companies gathered in Pittsburgh, Pa., to attend a special exhibit of electrical equipment for possible use in their plants. Among those in attendance was James Farrington, superintendent of the electrical department at LaBelle Iron Works in Steubenville, Ohio. Farrington felt that the people in his industry needed some central forum



James Farrington was the founder and first president of AISEE.

where they could exchange information on the latest technology and equipment. He suggested the formation of a national organization that would "increase cooperation between the makers and users of electrical apparatus in iron and steel works, and...secure improvements in such apparatus."

The following October, amid the start of a serious economic panic, the Association of Iron and Steel Electrical Engineers was born. Fifteen members and eight guests attended the first meeting, which featured 18 papers on such subjects as control and acceleration of electric motors, heavy-duty DC motors, mill motors, lighting, generators and steam turbines. The group elected Farrington as its President, and dues were set at $10 a year. In addition, each attendee indicated his approval of this new organization by chipping in one dollar.

Yet when the time came to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the association, Farrington admitted some surprise at how well his idea had been received. In his message to members in 1932, he wrote, "None of us at that meeting thought the Association of Iron and Steel Electrical Engineers would grow to the size, activity and prominence that it now has attained in 25 years." He also wrote of "the esteem and respect with which the association is held by all ste men, from the executives down to the foremen However, the first 25 years of AISEE were not witho their struggles, and the successful operation of th association was not always within sight.

The original AISEE logo.

Early Struggles

As early as 1916, that year's AISEE President, W. Snyder, complained that members were not taking su ficient interest in their organization. Although in 191 the privilege of membership had been extende beyond engineers to include suppliers of equipmen six years later there were few members attendin meetings, and they were not doing their full share i presenting papers, said Snyder. Suggestions and criti cisms began to come from all sides. Something had t be done about the indifference of the membership.

The previous nine years had seen tremendou growth and activity in AISEE. In gearing up for Worl War I, the iron and steel industry had a great deal o involvement, and the association was at the forefront The seemingly impossible demands for quality an quantity of unlimited varieties of steel for all purpose were met and executed by steel workers across th country, but not without a growing concern for safety in the workplace. In 1912 the Safety Committee held the Cooperative Safety Congress in Milwaukee in cooperation with the AISEE Annual Convention. Following the meeting, a permanent organization devoted to the promotion of safety — today known as the National Safety Council — was developed. To the steel worker, safety was an everyday issue, and the association rose to the challenge of helping to establish a safer workplace.

> **Who among those broad-visioned founders, even in his fondest dream, ever dared imagine the association would achieve the phenomenal success it has?**
> **— C.S. Proudfoot, 1928 AISEE President**

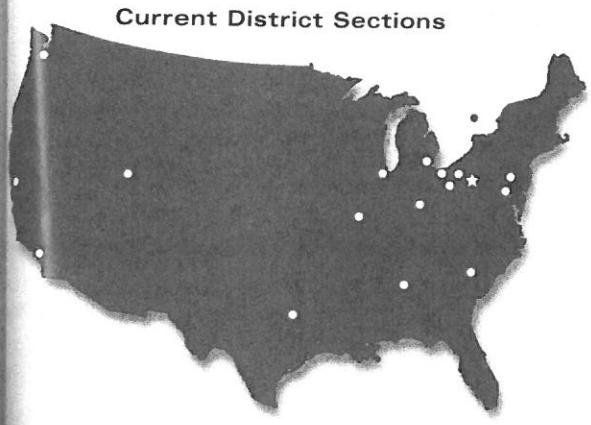
April 1907 — At an informal gathering of 28 steel industry electrical engineers, James Farrington suggests the formation of a national organization that would increase cooperation among makers and users of electrical apparatus in iron and steel facilities.

Oct. 1907 — The first Annual Meeting is held in Pittsburgh, attended by 15 members and eight guests. The group adopts the name "Association of Iron and Steel Electrical Engineers" and elects James Farrington as its first President.

1914 — AISEE forms its first District Section.

1917 — AISEE hires its first Managing Director, John F. Kelly.

1905 1910 1915



District Sections and their year of formation:

1914 — Pittsburgh District Section
1915 — Chicago District Section
1916 — Cleveland District Section and Philadelphia District Section
1919 — Birmingham District Section
1938 — Detroit District Section
1944 — Buffalo District Section (renamed as Niagara Section in 1966)
1953 — Youngstown District Section
1954 — Los Angeles District Section (renamed as Southern California Section in 1997) and St. Louis District Section
1955 — San Francisco District Section
1956 — Utah District Section
1958 — Canton District Section
1959 — Colorado District Section (now part of the Utah Section)
1968 — Texas District Section (renamed as the Southwest Section in 1988)
1969 — Baltimore District Section
1980 — Florida District Section (merged into the Southeast Section in 1994)
1982 — Northwest District Section
1994 — Southeast District Section
1996 — Ohio Valley District Section

ISE District Sections began in 1914 to accommodate steady growth of the association across the U.S.

In 1914, to accommodate the steady growth of membership, the first District Section was formed in Pittsburgh. The Chicago Section was established in 1915, followed by Cleveland and Philadelphia in 1916. However, in 1916, this growth began to stall, and the Association reached the stage where some remodeling was necessary for continued progress. Because membership and activities had expanded so much, it became necessary to employ a full-time manager, the beginning of a permanent staff. In 1917, John F. Kelly, former employee in the electrical department at National Tube Co., became the first Managing Director.

Our association has assumed a very enviable place in the technical world, and it is [our] ambition...to make the AISEE a most important influence in the steel industry.
— S.S. Wales, 1927 AISEE President

Growth and Expansion

Under the leadership of a Managing Director, the Association began to expand once again. Mr. Kelly brought to the job a combination of vision, sales ability and energy that established the association as a growing concern and kept it moving through the next several years. In 1919 the first Iron and Steel Exhibition (now termed Exposition) was held in St. Louis. This has gone on to become the industry's most influential trade show in North America.

In 1924 AISEE began publication of a monthly technical journal, *Iron and Steel Engineer*. Containing practical information on the design, construction, operation and maintenance of iron and steel production facilities, most of the content was contributed or suggested by the readers themselves. The magazine has been the mouthpiece of the association ever since. In his 1932 message to the membership, S.S. Wales, the 1927 President of AISEE, said,

> Through the vehicle of our publication, the *Iron and Steel Engineer*,...we have laid before us each month the most important advances in steel manufacture and material handling, new electrical, mechanical, combustion, lubrication and safety applications, improvements in repairs and upkeep, fresh from the minds of those whose business in life is to deal with these special problems. Our advertisers realize the value of the *Iron and Steel Engineer* as a means of communication with the industry.

F.D. Egan, 1917 AISEE President, commented that the magazine "soon obtained wide circulation and became known nationally and internationally." He also pointed out that "membership increased from a meager dozen courageous pioneers to an international body of progressive operators and engineers." The combination of technical articles and pertinent advertising was a success.

AISE will serve, as always, as an important medium for the exchange of technical and operational know-how for the industry. With our combined energies concentrated on better techniques and greater production, we will successfully meet the challenge of the present and safeguard our future.
— J.F. Black, 1951 AISE President

Another major accomplishment for the association during this time was its pioneering in standardization. F.W. Cramer, President of the AISEE in 1929, wrote about the association's efforts in this area:

1919 — AISEE holds its first Iron and Steel Exposition in St. Louis.

1924 — AISEE begins to publish a monthly magazine, *Iron and Steel Engineer*.

1930 — AISEE's Spring Conference, which eventually becomes the Rolling Mill Conference, is first convened.

1920 — 1925 — 1930

A poster version of this timeline is available on-line in PDF format at www.steeltechnology.org.

AISE Managing Directors

John F. Kelly was a former employee in the electrical department at National Tube Co., McKeesport, Pa.

T.B. Little was a member of the AISE staff for seven years before taking over the duties of Managing Director for one year upon the death of John Kelly.

Brent Wiley graduated from Rose Polytechnic Institute in electrical engineering. He first worked for Carnegie Steel Co. at the Ohio and Homestead works. In 1904 he went with Wellman-Seaver-Morgan Co., and in 1906 he joined Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Co., where he spent the next 25 years in close c tact with electrification in the steel industry.

T.J. Ess graduated from Carnegie Institute of Technology in mechanical engineering. He spent 15 years with Republic Steel Corp. and its predecessors in maintenance, power and combustion work. In 1938 he joined the association staff in an editorial capacity and later assumed general supervisory work. He authored many articles that appeared in *Iron and Steel Engineer*.

William C. Friesel served Assistant Managing Director beg ning in 1965. He had been on AISE staff since 1947 and was charge of advertising and the I and Steel Exposition since 19 Prior to joining the association, was with the Pittsburgh investme banking firm, Mellon Securities Co

Back in 1908 it was realized that overhead traveling cranes contained about all possible sizes of wheels, shafting, gears, etc., but the cooperative spirit was not strong enough to put the crane code across. This was not done until years later, but we now have overhead traveling cranes standardized, so that they can be economically built by several manufacturers and the spare parts required are reduced to a minimum.

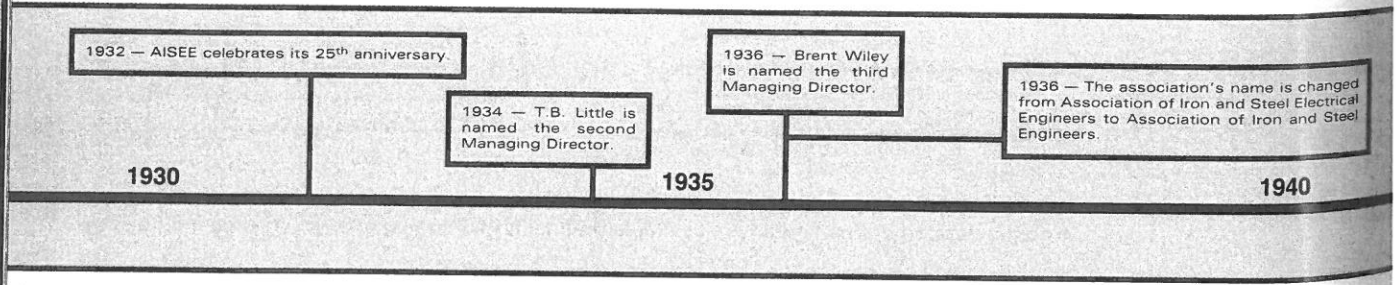
The AISEE made strides in standardization in other areas, including mill motors and ball and roller bearings. As a result of these standards, both manufacturers and consumers were able to save many thousands of dollars.

In my opinion, our association is an important link for each individual member and his or her company to advance to higher levels.
— P.N. Wigton, 1988 AISE President

The association was gaining in influence and expanding its scope of activities. In 1921 a paper by G.E. Stoltz, entitled "Review of Cost of Rolling Steel in Various Mills," showed that the association's ongoing program of releasing information of industry-wide interest was continuing despite opposition. With the growth of membership, interest developed in fields other than electrical. A combustion division w formed in 1921, a lubrication division in 1930 and mechanical division in 1938. The growth of these en neering divisions gradually rendered the name of t association obsolete. In 1928 it was suggested that t word *electrical* be dropped, but it was not until 19 that the name was changed to Association of Iron a Steel Engineers.

Any change made within the organization, accor ing to W.S. Hall, 1922 AISEE President, was attempt only "where it was felt that the greatest need exist

The organization's second logo, reflecting the name change to Association of Iron and Steel Engineers.



Herschel B. Poole served as Secretary of the Birmingham District Section beginning in 1968. He received a degree in mechanical engineering from Auburn University in 1955 and did graduate work at the University of Alabama. He began his career in the steel industry as an engineering manager at U. S. Steel and worked at Rust Engineering Co. for 15 years as a project and staff engineer. He also served as a consultant to Dravo Corp.

Lawrence G. Maloney graduated from Michigan College of Mining and Technology in 1952 with a B.S. degree in civil engineering. He spent 22 years in the design and construction of steel mill, chemical and lime facilities. He also had 17 years of experience in marketing and sales of engineering and construction services to the metals industry. He served as Director — Business Development — Metals for MK-Ferguson, and he previously worked for DuPont, Marblehead Lime, Inland Steel, Davy McKee and Rust International. He holds eight patents, mainly in the field of iron production.

Ronald E. Ashburn received his B.S. degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Pittsburgh in 1987. Prior to joining the AISE staff, Ron worked approximately 16 years with Mannesmann Demag, first joining them in 1986 as a mechanical engineer in their Continuous Casting Div. In 1992, he served as the Proposal Engineering Manager for continuous casting, and in 1996, Ron was appointed the Director of Technology for Steelmaking and Casting. In 1997, he assumed the role of Vice President — Casting and Hot Rolling. In 1999, SMS and Mannesmann Demag merged to form SMS Demag, where Ron last served as Vice President — Operations for their Steelmaking and Casting Div. located in Pittsburgh, Pa.

and where the problems were those in which a steel plant engineer is vitally interested." The association never wavered from its policy of keeping its activities confined strictly to the iron and steel industry and its affiliates. Mr. Hall believed that the expansion via technical divisions would "prove equally as successful as the work carried on by the association in the early days, when only electrical problems were considered." And so it has been as successful, if not more so.

> **The AISE has also changed with the times. A dynamic staff organization has pumped excitement into our programs and provided an array of timely seminars that deal with technological opportunities and project execution philosophies.**
>
> **— B.J. Fedak, 1996 AISE President**

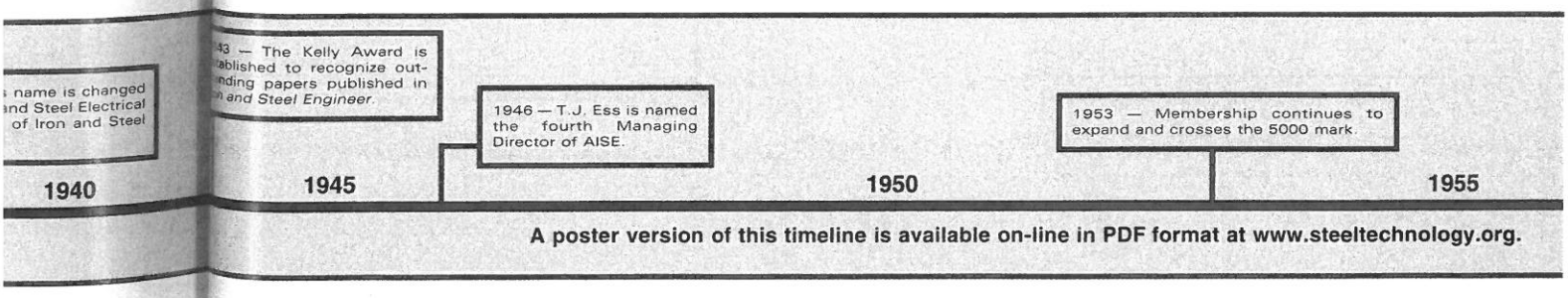
Adaptation and Change

With its continued growth, the AISE began to adapt more and more to changes within the industry. As Mr. Hall said, "The success of the association was largely due to the policies adopted from time to time. The Officers and Board of Directors, since the organization of the association, have been continually changing."

Following the death of John Kelly in 1934, T.B. Little, who had been a member of the association staff for seven years, served one year as Managing Director. He was succeeded by Brent Wiley, a graduate of Rose Polytechnic Institute in electrical engineering. During the 10 years of Mr. Wiley's management, the association developed materially in membership and strength, despite the economic depression in the early 1930s, and it broadened its scope of activities even more. Two more District Sections were added, and membership reached 3000.

Technology kept advancing, and AISE strove to keep its members on top of the latest and best in the industry. With the advent of continuous rolling, numerous association programs focused extensively on rolling equipment and methods. The free exchange of information, always fostered by AISE, was credited with being a crucial catalyst in the rapid and successful maturation of this technological development.

By now, the country had become involved in the conflict of World War II. Members of AISE produced the steels that went to war, from armor plate to shell steel, high-tensile stainless steel for aircraft, and



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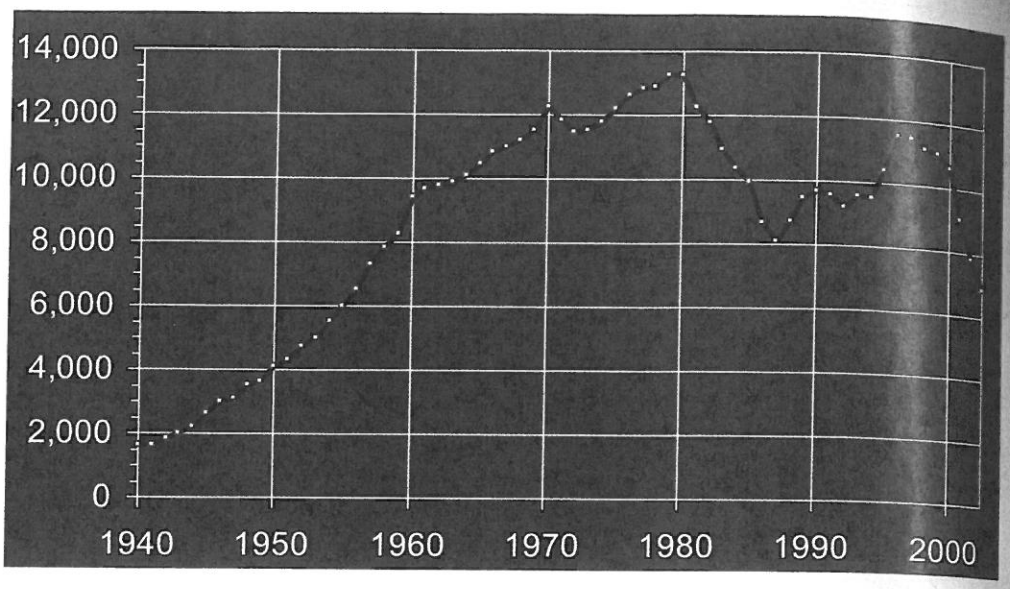


AISE membership has reflected the ups and downs of the steel industry over the years. This chart illustrates membership levels since 1940.

fatigue-resisting steels for a variety of uses. New alloys were developed, and the heat treating of carbon steel was improved. Despite the significant drain on able-bodied manpower during the war, the membership of AISE actually increased, from 1619 members in 1941 to 3214 members in 1945. With increased production requirements placed on the mills during the war, the need to share information increased, and membership consequently grew.

> **Our organization more so than any other has had an unceasing fight to keep pace with the advance of [iron and steel technology], and to date, has been more than successful.**
> **— B.W. Gilson, 1920 AISEE President**

Each month, *Iron and Steel Engineer* continued to put forth discussions and solutions to the problems encountered in everyday iron and steel mill work. When a plant engineer discovered a method to overcome a difficulty in production, the method was revealed to all. When a new understanding evolved, entirely revolutionizing some facet of production, that understanding was disseminated to every member of the association. The shoulder-to-shoulder cooperation among those in the industry allowed ideas that had humble beginnings — perhaps in a repair shop somewhere — to reach thousands of people and thereby improve the quality of steel production everywhere.

In 1943 AISE saw the need to encourage people in the industry to write articles for *Iron and Steel Engineer*. Thus, the Kelly Award was established in memory of the first Managing Director. The award was given annually for the best paper published in *Iron and Steel Engineer*.

Furthermore, the association began to produce a number of books in fields where published material was sparse but still needed. In 1941, *The Modern Strip Mill* provided a comprehensive analysis of these new mills that revolutionized the production of sheet and tinplate products. The book presented the only complete catalog of any kind of steel plant equipment at that time. Other pertinent publications followed, including *Tube Mill Practice* and *Roll Design and Mill Layout*.

Educational projects were not far from AISE's sights, either. AISE began to sponsor lecture series on steel plant topics, and the association supported graduate scholarships and postgraduate fellowships at different times and at different schools. In 1956, a program of four-year engineering scholarships, administered by the National Merit Scholarship Corp., was instituted. AISE has remained one of the few continuous sponsors of the National Merit Scholarship Corp. since its

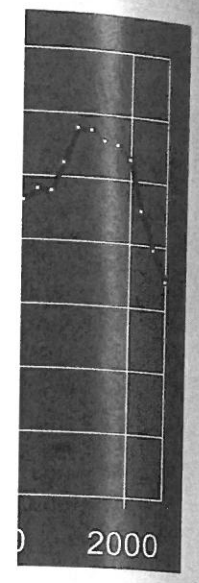
> **The Association of Iron and Steel Engineers has within its membership the human skills and resources to reestablish the U.S. as the "diamond" of the world steel industry.**
> **— R.D. McBride, 1982 AISE President**

1955 — 1957 — AISE celebrates its 50th anniversary, while membership reaches nearly 7000

1960

1964 — AISE membership surpasses the 10,000 mark.

1965



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AISE President

ception. A total of 135 students have received AISE's tional Merit award since then.

In 1946, T.J. Ess was named the fourth Managing rector of AISE. During his tenure, with business and dustry growing in the postwar period, the association ded eight District Sections, and AISE membership ore than doubled. When 1957 arrived, AISE was cele- ating its 50th anniversary, and membership had ached nearly 7000.

The Association of Iron and Steel Engineers is a diversified organization.... Whatever the job of an individual member, the industry-wide range of AISE activities will help him stay abreast of current technical knowledge.
— R.W. Holman, 1970 AISE President

echnological Advancements

In the aftermath of World War II, consumer demand as high, and labor and management were active in lling the country's needs. Steel technology continued advance. The basic oxygen process, first installed in e U.S. in 1954, was a major breakthrough. Steel could ow be produced in 45 minutes instead of the average ine to 10 hours required in the open hearth operation. he next several years saw increased interest in the irect reduction of iron ore as an alternative to the last furnace and coke oven. Another advance in tech- ology was continuous casting, which significantly reamlined production methods, reduced energy con- umption, and improved product quality and yield. his process had been in the experimental stage for 10 ears before significant advances in the late 1960s ade possible a number of full-scale production units.

Also toward the end of the 1960s, Q-BOP — a efinement of the BOF process using oxygen blown in om the bottom instead of the top — was introduced. improved metal yield with a lower investment cost an the traditional BOF process. These years saw, oo, the development of tin-free steel for the food can- ing industry that substantially reduced the depend- nce on tin as a coating for containers.

All these developments involved the engineers and eir associates who comprised AISE. The association elped to spread word of the new technical develop- ents and continued its policy of encouraging the inter- hange of information among industry personnel. AISE ontinued to exert its influence through regularly sched- led technical sessions, expositions and publications. As lways, AISE was instrumental in the successful imple- entation of new technology as it developed.

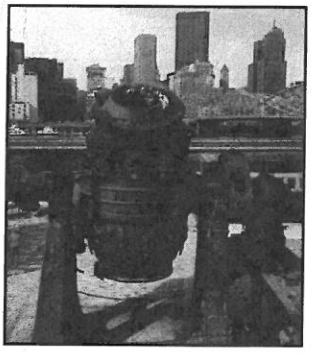
Continuing Growth

In 1968, William C. Friesel became the fifth Managing Director, and AISE continued to grow. During the time of his management, three new District Sections were formed (in Texas, Baltimore and Florida), and several technology divisions were established. These divisions included the Coke and Byproducts Division, the Iron Producing Division and the Oxygen Steelmaking Division. Oxygen steelmaking, as mentioned earlier, had gotten its start in 1952 in Austria and was introduced in the U.S. two years later. As usual, AISE expanded in this area because a need existed, but its focus remained on the steel plant engineers and equipment manufacturing representatives who would benefit from the change.

The membership of the Association of Iron and Steel Engineers will contribute in many ways to the success of [the long-range plans of the industry], by developing...new concepts and the continual improvement of existing methods and facilities.
— J.L. Laidlaw, 1966 AISE President

Beginning in 1973, AISE took over publication of the annual *Directory of Iron and Steel Plants,* formerly published by Steel Publications Inc. of Pittsburgh. This "black book" has been one of the most valuable reference tools for industry personnel, featuring data on essentially every North American steel producer as well as a comprehensive, alphabetical listing of all major suppliers to the international iron and steel industry.

As the 1980s rolled in, Herschel B. Poole was named the sixth Managing Director of AISE. He led



In honor of the 75th anniversary of AISE, a Bessemer converter was erected at Station Square in Pittsburgh.

68 — William C. Friesel is named fifth Managing Director of AISE.

1973 — The *Directory of Iron and Steel Plants* is first published by AISE.

1979 — AISE membership reaches its all-time high of 13,250.

1965 1970 1975 1980

A poster version of this timeline is available on-line in PDF format at www.steeltechnology.org.

the association in its celebration of its 75th anniversary in 1982. In commemoration of this event, AISE erected a Bessemer converter at Station Square. Seventy-five years of dynamic industrial growth had passed, and the association had never shirked its function of trying to improve the technological aspects of making iron and steel.

> **The Association of Iron and Steel Engineers...has helped its members immeasurably to stay abreast of developments and to evaluate those new methods and processes which showed promise for economic gain in our industry.**
>
> **— E. Kern, 1959 AISE President**

In 1984 U. S. Steel Corp. approached AISE about taking on future publication of the popular reference book, *The Making, Shaping and Treating of Steel.* U. S. Steel published the first (1919) through ninth (1971) editions and thought AISE to be the appropriate organization to carry the mantle of this publication into the future. AISE worked jointly with U. S. Steel research personnel and Carnegie Mellon University to author and publish the 10th edition. In 1998, AISE transferred the rights to the MSTS to the AISE Steel Foundation, bringing in volunteer authors to write chapters for the various editions, thus broadening the scope and experience base for the 11th edition. Since then, three volumes have been published, each a comprehensive manual on a vital topic: the Ironmaking Volume, the Steelmaking and Refining Volume and the Casting Volume.

The first issue of *AISE Steel Technology* was published in 1999. It is pictured here with the first issue of *Iron and Steel Engineer,* from 1924.

By the time Lawrence G. Maloney was named the seventh Managing Director in 1991, AISE had established the Samson Scholarship and the Tadeusz Sendzimir Memorial Award, there were 15 active District Sections, and a Material Handling Systems and Technology Division had been added. In 1997 the first Project Excellence Award was given in recognition of a project that combined successful advancements in steelmaking with a novel business approach. Two years

Technical Committees and their year of formation:

1907 — Electrical Engineering Division
1910 — Subcommittee No. 6 on Electric Overhead Traveling Cranes for Steel Mill Service
1921 — Energy and Combustion Engineering Division
1932 — Maintenance Technology Division
1943 — Rolling Mill Division
1948 — Subcommittee No. 8 on Insulated Conductors for Crane and Auxiliary Motors
1949 — Subcommittee No. 9 on Design of Ladles
1962 — Subcommittee No. 13 on Design and Construction of Mill Buildings
1964 — Subcommittee No. 27 on Blast Furnace Technology
1973 — Coke Producing Division
1973 — Iron Producing Division
1973 — Oxygen Steelmaking Division
1978 — Subcommittee No. 28 on Steel Industry Computer Applications
1979 — Material Handling Systems and Technology Division
1982 — Computer Applications Division
1982 — Subcommittee No. 29 on Materials Handling Systems and Technology
1988 — Bar and Shape Rolling Division
1990 — Subcommittee No. 31 on Electrical Engineering and Maintenance Applications
1991 — Subcommittee No. 32 on Basic Oxygen Furnaces
1991 — Environmental Engineering Division
1992 — Electric Steelmaking Division
1992 — Subcommittee No. 33 on Maintenance, Inspection and Repair of Torpedo Cars
1993 — Subcommittee No. 35 on Lubrication and Fluid Power Technology
1993 — Project Management Division
1994 — Subcommittee No. 36 on Sensors
1994 — Subcommittee No. 37 on Continuous Casting
1995 — Subcommittee No. 38 on Project Management Program Planning
1996 — Subcommittee No. 39 on Environmental Control Technologies
1997 — Subcommittee No. 40 on Maintenance and Reliability Strategies
1997 — Plate Rolling Division
1998 — Subcommittee No. 41 on Rolling and Finishing Training
1999 — Subcommittee No. 42 on Bar and Shape Rolling Technology
1999 — Subcommittee No. 43 on Electric Steelmaking Technologies
2000 — Product Quality Division
2001 — Subcommittee No. 44 on Energy and Combustion Engineering
2002 — Health and Safety Division
2002 — Subcommittee No. 45 on Health and Safety

1980

1981 — Herschel B. Poole is named the sixth Managing Director of AISE.

1982 — AISE celebrates its 75th anniversary and erects a Bessemer converter at Station Square to commemorate the steel heritage of Pittsburgh.

1985

1990 — The Tadeusz Sendzimir Medal is established to recognize steelmaking advances through the invention, development or application of new manufacturing processes or equipment.

1990

1991 — Lawrence G. Mal... is named the seve... Managing Director of AIS...

the industry. Approximately 1500 industry professionals attend these programs each year, gaining vital knowledge and skills that go back into the steel mills where they work.

> **The success of an organization of any kind, whether it is for pleasure, education or financial return, can be measured only by its results over a period of years.**
> **— W.S. Hall, 1922 AISEE President**

Looking Ahead

Ronald E. Ashburn, the eighth Managing Director of AISE, was brought on in 2002. In the same year, AISE rededicated the Bessemer converter at its new location in Bessemer Court in Station Square. With nearly 7000 members spread across more than 50 countries, AISE had come a long way since 1907. However, the long-term ability of AISE to serve the industry was coming into question. The steel industry was being challenged from many angles, and this in turn affected the association.

In January 2003, AISE President Joseph A. Rutkowski Jr. wrote the following about the challenges facing the industry:

> The challenges of our industry are so evident that they hardly need repeating: bankruptcies, legacy costs, worldwide excess production capacity, lack of access to capital, etc. There may be some who believe this is the hand we have been dealt and expect to play it out as long as possible. They will lose. When faced with tremendous challenges, we must always look at the opportunities for change.

With finances tighter than they were just a decade earlier, steel producers and suppliers now had less to spend on "extras" like association membership. But as 1982 AISE President Robert D. McBride said, "Many breakthroughs and much progress have come out of adversity. With the present problems of industry worldwide, we must recognize the opportunities that exist."

AISE has always been on the lookout for opportunities, and this time it was no different. In 2002, the AISE Executive Committee initiated an evaluation of a possible merger between AISE and the Iron & Steel Society, in hopes that the combination would be beneficial to both the memberships and the industry. Could a successful organization be formed from two long-standing and revered associations, or would it somehow tear people in the industry apart?

In 2003, both AISE and ISS memberships voted in favor of the consolidation of the two organizations to form the Association for Iron & Steel Technology. On Jan. 1, 2004, AIST will begin to carry out the mission of advancing the technical development, production, processing and application of iron and steel. This is not much different from the mission AISE has had all along. In an AISE brochure published for the 75th anniversary, we find the following words, describing how we might face the future:

> In the years ahead, members of the Association of Iron and Steel Engineers and its future members will be key people in achieving the accomplishments bound to come in this most basic of industries. The association is pledged to continue its responsiveness to industry interests by providing an active forum for the exchange of information and ideas. Its practical approach and a membership that covers every facet of the industry make it an invaluable vehicle for the broad dissemination of innovations originated by steelmakers, researchers and suppliers. The men and women who make iron and steel have new challenges to meet. AISE expects to make significant contributions to their meeting those challenges and to be a dynamic force in seeing that the resulting solutions reach a large, diverse and influential audience.

AISE has indeed been a dynamic force in the steel industry, and AIST will be the same, continuing the endeavor of being the premier source of information for iron and steel technology. In an ever-changing and challenging industry, there will still be a place for cooperation and a concerted effort directed toward continuous improvements, just as the first AISEE President, James Farrington, envisioned it many years ago.

> **The greatest service the association renders to the steel industry is in providing a meeting place where the engineers of the industry can discuss their problems not only from the floor of the open meeting, but also as one personal friend to another.**
> **— D.M. Petty, 1919 AISEE President**

In Closing

AISE began in 1907 with just 28 electrical engineers, and what a success it has become since then! To the many who have made up its numbers over the years, AISE has been an organization with an unwavering focus and an open responsiveness to the industry it serves. Beginning with the safety movement and the standardization of mill equipment and practices, the association never stopped moving ahead and improving the quality of steel production.

Now the AISE name is coming to an end, but its spirit will continue as an integral part of AIST. Its members will continue to gather and talk about the latest improvements in steelmaking, only now they will have the added benefit of an increased membership base as a result of consolidating existing AISE and ISS memberships. The dissemination of technical information will continue on a monthly basis in a technical journal, *Iron & Steel Technology*. Most importantly, the fruit of James Farrington's vision will continue to be a greater success than he ever imagined it would be.

Imagine the success we have to look forward to. Like Farrington, we all may sit back, years from now, and say, "None of us at the beginning of 2004 thought the Association for Iron & Steel Technology would grow to the size, activity and prominence that it now has attained."

So what is the secret of success? Ask the Association of Iron and Steel Engineers. It started with a solid mission. It took time to grow. It changed when it needed to. It never gave up. And what a success it has been!

Farewell, AISE. We will see you on the other side of the door of opportunity, the door that opens to AIST.