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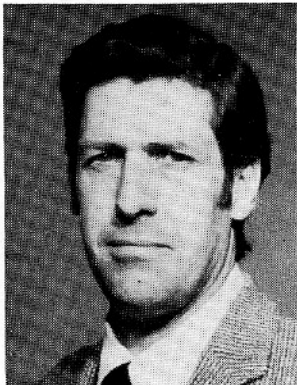
IEEE Council on

OCEANIC ENGINEERING

NEWSLETTER 

EDITOR: HAROLD SABBAGH

JUNE 1981 (USPS 420-910)



President's Comments

The IEEE Council on Oceanic Engineering met in Houston in early May during the Offshore Technology Conference. The setting for our meeting was impressive. After having missed this occasion for the past three years, the size, vigor, and colorfulness of this conference was quite overpowering. It is evident that the energy and resources which are being poured into this aspect of engineering and technology will only be dwarfed by the energy and mineral gains to be obtained from these regions of the globe. Overall, it does appear that amidst the sophisticated attack on the many problems which beset attempts to exploit these natural resources there is yet ample room and much need for the use of sophisticated instrumentation. Data handling, and communications techniques, as well as signal processing, pattern recognition and scene analysis methods, are but a select few of the bailiwicks where IEEE members can play a sustaining role in this exciting field. In many cases opportunities are being

lost when monitoring of the offshore platforms and their environment is absent or incomplete. Solid data bases need to be built if we are to better understand the behavior of such structures under tremendously varying conditions. Particularly so if we are to extend our explorations to ever deeper waters as will undoubtedly need to be the case. We must attain a better understanding, not only of the direct engineering problems which are generally all too visible, but also the more subtle effects of our penetration into an environment which, though immeasurably powerful in one sense, is all too fragile.

Our Council meeting in Houston dealt with numerous issues as well as the necessary housekeeping chores. The Oceans '81 meeting in Boston is shaping up very nicely and will prove to be one of our biggest and best. The quality of the program and the excellence of its setting will nicely complement one another. I hope to meet many of you in this most fascinating of cities. Stan Chamberlain and his

committee are doing a marvelous and highly professional job in assuring us all of a very worthwhile meeting. Our next conference will be held in Washington D.C. in 1982, while further sites for future Ocean's Conferences are rapidly being reserved. We are planning ahead to 1985 and beyond!

Discussion, led by our Editor-in-Chief, Dave Weissman, centered on further expanding and improving our Journal. We plan to start a sequence of special issues, with the help of guest editors, which will focus on particular aspects of our fields. An example would be an issue on expendable instrumentation. Starting in 1982 each issue, in addition to contributed papers and communications, will feature a

special section under a guest editor dealing with a timely topic. The archival value of our Journal will undoubtedly be further enhanced by such efforts. Special issue topics and the guest editors, as well as requests for topical papers, will be announced through the offices of this newsletter.

Other items discussed at the meeting I will write about in a future issue. It remains for me to thank the members of the Council for their help and energetic participation. It made this first meeting I chaired a rewarding one for me.

See you in Boston at Oceans '81, September 16th through 18th at the Sheraton Boston Hotel.

Don Bolle

