

FIFTY YEARS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ARSON INVESTIGATORS



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 21, 1950

INFORMATION RELATING TO DOMESTIC ESPIONAGE,
SABOTAGE, SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES AND RELATED MATTERS

On September 6, 1939 and January 8, 1943 a Presidential Directive was issued providing that the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the Department of Justice should take charge of investigative work in matters relating to espionage, sabotage, subversive activities and related matters. It was pointed out that the investigations must be conducted in a comprehensive manner on a national basis and all information carefully sifted out and correlated in order to avoid confusion. I should like to again call the attention of all Enforcement Officers, both Federal and State, to the request that they report all information in the above enumerated fields promptly to the nearest Field Representative of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which is charged with the responsibility of correlating this material and referring matters which are under the jurisdiction of any other Federal Agency with responsibilities in this field to the appropriate agency.

I suggest that all patriotic organizations and individuals likewise report all such information relating to espionage, sabotage and subversive activities to the Federal Bureau of Investigation in this same manner.

Harry Truman



JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

July 27, 1950



Mr. George H. Parker
Chairman, Membership Committee
International Association of Arson Investigators
940 Starks Building
Louisville 2, Kentucky

Dear Mr. Parker:

Your letter of July 21, 1950, with reference to fingerprinting members of the International Association of Arson Investigators has been received.

This Bureau has not been informed of the institution of any program providing for the fingerprinting of individuals or members of organizations which may participate in any civilian defense plan promulgated. All information concerning civilian participation in the possession of the Governors or the Directors of Civil Defense of the various states working in conjunction with the Civil Defense Office of the National Security Resources Board.

It will not be possible for this Bureau to process civilian defense fingerprint records until a program on a national basis has been established and appropriate instructions issued.

With reference to sabotage investigations, it will be appreciated if your representatives will advise the nearest office of this Bureau of any information received indicating a violation of any Federal sabotage status.

Sincerely yours,

J. E. Hoover
John Edgar Hoover
Director



FIFTY YEARS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ARSON INVESTIGATORS

1949 - 1999

50th Anniversary Committee

Robert Doran, Chair

Weldon Carmichael, Co-chair

Jean-Claude Cloutier

Ben Cypher

Dean Price

Peter Sloan

Pam Craig-White

Jack Yates

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DEDICATION

To the forefathers, the founders of the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI), who had the foresight and wisdom to form an organization which would address the educational requirements necessary in the field of arson investigation. These men saw the need for better communications among fellow investigators, local and federal agencies and the insurance industry. They set high standards for themselves as an example to those who were to follow in the future.

This book is dedicated to the people who have made the IAAI one of the educational leaders in fire and arson investigation. To all the past presidents and the impressions, wisdom and knowledge they left upon this Association over the past fifty years; to all the officers, directors, and professional men and women who have given their time and expertise in making us successful; to the dedicated employees, both volunteers and salaried, who handle the day-to-day business of the Association and especially to the membership without which no organization would exist.

Last but not least, this book dedicates a moment to remember and memorialize all the departed colleagues who have finalized their last investigation and will not be with us as we celebrate fifty years of the IAAI and service to fire investigation and arson suppression.

FOREWORD

Our forefathers were undoubtedly dedicated individuals and years ahead of their time. What they accomplished was without the use of computers, faxes, or other modern aids, which we now take for granted. They found ways to publish their newsletters without cost to the members, did their own mailings, telephone calling, and traveled by less costly means of transportation. Those who accepted the responsibility of elected or appointed office never missed an annual seminar, which included a planning meeting held about six months before the annual seminar. The annual seminar ran from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., followed by the board business meetings, and they were required to attend all classes. Therefore tired, but dedicated and with pen and pad in hand, they went to the business meeting to fulfill their responsibilities.

This fiftieth anniversary commemorative book is a challenge to all IAAI members to recognize the past and to provide this Association with direction for the future.

Robert Doran, 50th Anniversary Committee Chair

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is with pride that, as current President of the International Association of Arson Investigators, I join with you in celebrating our 50th Anniversary.

The International Association was chartered by our forefathers as a non-profit organization in Louisville, Kentucky in 1949. At that time there were approximately 268 members. Although I feel sure that our charter members had high hopes for increases in membership, one cannot help but ponder whether they envisioned that this small group of dedicated people would grow to a worldwide membership nearing the 9,000 mark with 64 chapters around the world.

Today we still function as a nonprofit Association, with the majority of our educational programs, membership services, chapter services, activities in Washington and the like, being conducted by dedicated men and women on a volunteer basis. Yes, we do now have a paid staff who operates the day-to-day functions from our headquarters in St. Louis, however, our growth has been as a direct result of volunteers united by the same cause.

The IAAI has become proactive in its leadership in the field of fire investigation, education and legislation in both local and federal governments.

We have developed and maintained an outstanding CFI program, which is becoming recognized as a premier program.

The IAAI now has representation on NFPA Technical Committees and we are recognized in the fire service community as leaders.

We have come a long way in 50 years. I ask the question "what will the next 50 years hold for us?" Truthfully no one has the answer except to say we are entering a new era of challenge—I have every confidence we will meet these challenges head-on.

In closing I leave with you a quote which I believe exemplifies our success in the past and what must be present in our future "You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give."

Happy 50th Anniversary

*J.E. Maydew, President
International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc.*

INCOMING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

While it would always be an honor and a privilege to become President of the International Association of Arson Investigators, I feel doubly blessed to serve as your President in our Fiftieth Anniversary Year. I appreciate the opportunity to serve, as both our last President in the 20th century and the first President in the 21st century. It is a time to reflect back on our past, and to appreciate the contributions of those who have come before us. Our founding fathers demonstrated much foresight and wisdom when they chartered our Association in 1949. The intervening years have seen many improvements, as each President has worked to contribute to the reputation and success we have enjoyed. It is a measure of the dedication of our leaders, and the hold that the organization gets on you that so many past presidents have continued to attend the annual seminars and actively take part in conducting the Association's business.

It is also a good time to look to the future, to find out what can be done to keep IAAI the premier organization in the field of fire investigation. We must continue to expand and update our training programs to include the latest knowledge and technology that is available. We must ensure that our professional certification program is the most respected one available. We must become a leader in the search on fire behavior, and in the development of new tools and techniques to investigate fires. We need to create partnerships with kindred organizations, so that our combined talents and assets can collectively produce better results. And we must communicate better with our own chapters, not only to avoid misunderstandings, but also to increase our productivity. We must make our dream of getting a permanent home office and training facility a reality. But these are only some of the goals I hope to fulfill during my year as President. We need an influx of new members to get involved at both the chapter and international levels. Every member should strive to leave the Association a little bit better than it was when he joined. Working together, we will be a better organization when our next anniversary arrives.

I want to close by thanking the Nevada Chapter for hosting such an educational and fun-packed seminar. Their hospitality and hard work are appreciated. I eagerly await next year's conference in Michigan, and I am confident they will also hold a memorable event. I encourage any member who has a comment or constructive criticism to call or write me. I will do my best to accommodate any reasonable request.

Fraternally yours,

*Bob Kramer, Incoming President
International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc.*

Q-C-6-c-4 (suppl.)

FIFTH ANNUAL

ARSON INVESTIGATORS' SEMINAR
AND
TRAINING COURSE

PROGRAM

MAY 23 - 27, 1949

CONDUCTED AT

PURDUE UNIVERSITY

LAFAYETTE — INDIANA

It was a few years into peace time and families were beginning to enjoy a little prosperity. The year started off with a cease fire in Palestine. President Truman proposed the Point Four Program to help the world's backward areas. Israel signs Armistice with Egypt. It was the start of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)—Treaty signed by 12 nations. The Soviet sector of Berlin became the German Democratic Republic on October 7, 1949. President Truman disclosed that the Soviet Union has set off an atomic explosion. The Communist People's Republic of China was formally proclaimed. **The premier of the creation of a worldwide organization dedicated to training and education in the field of arson investigations was announced.**

THE YEAR IN REVIEW '49

The first known arson seminar was held under the direction of Professor J. L. Lingo, Director of Safety Institute, Purdue, University, in 1944. This seminar was well attended, and a follow-up conference was developed which became an annual seminar. It was at the fifth seminar in 1949 when our founders, a group in attendance, decided to form an association. The original concept included the following:

1. To coordinate activities.
2. To assist in securing adequate laws and their enforcement.
3. To furnish technical advice.
4. To act as a clearing house or a disseminating agent for the membership.

At the close of the fifth annual seminar at Purdue, on or about October 1949, Professor Lingo allotted some time to look at the future of this earlier informal group. This was the evening before the close of the seminar. The discussion that followed covered the name of the association and the qualifications of the membership. In a short time, this enthusiastic group gave us the name, "**International Association of Arson Investigators,**" and elected George Parker as President. President Parker was a manager with the Kentucky Inspection Bureau in Louisville, Kentucky. He appointed Dr. Richard Steinmetz of the Mutual Investigation Bureau, Chicago, Illinois, the Editor and Publisher of the *News Letter*. Dr. Steinmetz was the first of six editors this Association has had to date. The IAAI was char-

tered as a nonprofit organization in Louisville, Kentucky, in 1949.

In the Association's first year, 1949, the members failed to elect a board of directors, and as such, the officers had to act as the board. At the second meeting held on June 14, 1950, the membership elected six people to the board of directors, two serving 3 years, two serving 2 years and two serving 1 year. It is interesting to note that the retiring president became a member of the board serving for one year. This position was later removed from the board of directors.

In July 1949, President Parker requested Professor Lingo be appointed an Honorary Member of the IAAI since his occupation did not meet with the drafted membership requirements. Also, anyone joining the IAAI in the first year would be considered a charter member.

Little did the founders dream that the IAAI would be so successful and received with such enthusiasm. Within a few months, the membership exceeded 750, with more than 50 members coming from beyond the continental United States. The aim was to encourage awareness in arson suppression and to disseminate information to the members. This goal required a committee structure featuring publicity, education, training, technical consultants, and an editorial staff.

Those persons applying for membership had to be fingerprinted by a police agency, and the application had to be approved by the local police and fire departments. The applicants also had to sign their application and take an oath that they were not, nor had they been, a member of any group that the federal government had on its list of undesirable organizations. The first membership application, put into

**OFFICERS AND LEADERS OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF ARSON INVESTIGATORS
MAY 26, 1949**

President: G. H. Parker, Manager
Kentucky Inspection Bureau
940 Starks Building
Louisville 2, Kentucky

Vice President: Thomas W. Baldwin, Fire Chief
Fire Headquarters
East Orange, New Jersey

Vice President: Charles L. Haggerty, Det. Sgt.
Police Department
Buffalo, New York

Secretary: Roderick Goeriz, Det. Inspect.
Arson Squad
Fire Headquarters
Wayne and Larned Streets
Detroit, Michigan

Treasurer: S. T. Sides, Lieutenant
Arson Investigation
Fire Department
Columbus, Ohio

A. Bruce Bielaski, Asst. General Mgr.
The National Board of Fire Underwriters
85 John Street
New York 7, New York

Charles S. Morgan
The National Fire Protection Association
60 Batterymarch Street
Boston 10, Massachusetts

Dr. R. C. Steinmetz, Chief Special Agent
Mutual Investigation Bureau
111 West Washington Street
Chicago 2, Illinois

Sergeant Lawrence L. Priar
Pennsylvania State Police
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

William J. Davis, Assistant Manager
National Automobile Theft Bureau
166 West Van Buren Street
Chicago 4, Illinois

Professor J. L. Lingo
Public Safety Institute
Purdue University
West Lafayette, Indiana

Professor Fred Inbau
Northwestern University School of Law
357 West Chicago Avenue
Chicago 11, Illinois

Mr. George W. Clough, Fire Marshal
Fire Commission
Old Court House Annex
Mineola, New York

service in 1950, was designed so that persons with a subversive background or felons would not infiltrate the Association. A complete list of totalitarian, fascist, communist or subversive organizations were posted with the officers of the Association. Because of the affiliations and connections of the early members, the background check was thorough.

William L. Martin, elected secretary, recorded the first minutes May 9, 1950. Vice President Charles Haggerty, Detective-Sergeant, Arson Squad, Police Department, Buffalo, New York (who eventually became the fourth President) presided over the meeting.

First Published Minutes—May 9, 1950

At 8:00 p.m., C. D. T., the 2nd annual meeting of the International Association of Arson Investigators, which was held in conjunction with the Arson Seminar at Purdue University, W. Lafayette, Indiana, was called to order by President George H. Parker.

Vice President Charles L. Haggerty presided while President Parker delivered a report summarizing the first year of the Association, during which it had grown to an organization of 1008 members. President Parker outlined the organization of the Association the evening [sic] of May 26th at the 1949 Arson Seminar, followed by a brief business meeting the following and last day of the Seminar. At this session the name was adopted, a member was appointed to draft a constitution and by-laws, and the following officers elected:

George H. Parker, Manager, Kentucky Inspection Bureau, Louisville, Kentucky, President; Thomas W. Baldwin, Fire Chief, Fire Headquarter, East Orange, New Jersey, First Vice President; Charles L. Haggerty, Detective-Sergeant, Arson Squad, Police Department, Buffalo, N.Y., Second Vice President; Roderick Goeriz, Detective-Inspector, Arson Squad, Detroit, Michigan, Secretary; and S. T. Sides, Lieutenant, Arson Squad, Fire Department, Columbus, Ohio, Treasurer.

President Parker traced the problems of the Association over the past year and pointed out the various committees appointed. He announced the makeup of the nominating committee, as follows:

Joseph F. Gillece, Chairman; W. J. Austin, G. C. Hood, Ora A. Gregg and W. L. Martin, members.

A special Committee on Resolutions was appointed to study problems of the Association and to make recommendations for desirable organizational changes, composed of George W. Clough, Lawrence L. Priar and S. T. Sides.

Following the President's address W. L. Martin; Chairman of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee, reported upon the new Constitution of the Association. After discussion the Constitution and By-Laws were adopted.

Mr. Joseph F. Gillece, Chairman of the Nominating Committee placed the following names before the organization:

Detective-Inspector, Roderick Goeriz, Arson Squad, Fire Department, Detroit, Michigan, for President; Fire Marshal George W. Clough, Nassau County, Mineola, New York, for First Vice President; Detective-Sergeant Charles L. Haggerty, Arson Squad, Police Department, Buffalo, New York, for Second Vice President; State Fire

**ELECTED
OFFICERS
AND
DIRECTORS OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
ARSON INVESTIGATORS
MAY, 9, 1950**

Marshal W. L. Martin, Frankfort, Kentucky, for Secretary; Lieutenant S. T. Sides, Arson Squad, Fire Department, Columbus, Ohio for Treasurer.

E. A. Wakefield, Manager, Fire Underwriters Investigation Bureau of Canada, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, and A. Bruce Bielaski, Assistant General Manager, National Board of Fire Underwriters, New York, N.Y., for Directors for 3 years. Dr. Richard C. Steinmetz, Chief Special Agent, Mutual Investigation Bureau, Chicago, Ill., and Joseph L. Lingo, Director, Public Safety Institute, Purdue University, W. Lafayette, [sic] Ind., for Directors for 2 years.

Sergeant Lawrence L. Priar, Pennsylvania State Police, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and Mr. George H. Parker, Manager, Kentucky Inspection Bureau, Louisville, Kentucky, for Directors for 1 year.

No further nominations were made and the foregoing were elected for the coming year.

Mr. George W. Clough presented the following resolutions which were adopted:

- (1) That the Chairman of the Finance Committee be authorized to solicit sustaining memberships for educational activities from persons or organizations contributing as much as \$250.
- (2) That Professor Joseph L. Lingo of the Public Safety Institute be elected an honorary life member.
- (3) That the Public Safety Institute be thanked for its assistance and courtesies to the Association.
- (4) That the Mutual Investigation Bureau and National Auto Theft Bureau be thanked for assisting in the publication of the newsletters.
- (5) That President George H. Parker be thanked for his efforts in organizing and conducting the affairs of the Association.
- (6) That the Federal "Fugitive Felon Law" be extended to include the crime of arson and the U. S. Attorney General be advised of this action.
- (7) That the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America be congratulated for its fine work in instructing youths in firemanship.

The meeting was then recessed until 8:30 a.m., on Friday, May 12th, 1950.

Mr. George W. Clough presented the following resolutions which were adopted:

- (1) That the Comstitution [sic] and By-Laws be amended to provide that the officers and members of the Board shall hold office from the time of their election and qualification.
- (2) That the Constitution and By-Laws be amended to provide that honorary life memberships may be approved at the annual meeting by a majority vote of members present, by giving 60 days advance notice to the Board of Directors, but provided that no more than two nominations be approved in any year.
- (3) That the Constitution and By-Laws be amended to provide that sustaining memberships may be awarded to any person or organization eligible for membership by contributing at least \$250 annually to carry out the purposes of the Association.
- (4) That the President be authorized to investigate and take appropriate action toward incorporation of the Association under favorable laws and to copyright [sic] the name of the Association and to amend the Constitution and By-Laws to restrict the use of the name of the Association, except for members in using their credentials for identification and for officers, agents and appointees in acting for the Association.

President:	Roderick Goeriz Detective Inspector, Arson Squad Fire Dept. Detroit, Michigan
1st Vice President:	George W. Clough Fire Marshal Nassau Co. Mineola, New York
2nd Vice President:	Charles L. Haggerty Detective Sergeant Police Department Buffalo, New York
Secretary:	W. L. Martin State Fire Marshal Frankfort, Kentucky
Treasurer:	S. T. Sides Lieut. Fire Dept. Columbus, Ohio
Sergeant-at-Arms:	Holly Palmer Detective Kansas City, Kansas
Directors:	A. Bruce Bielaski, Asst. Genl. Mgr. National Board of Fire Underwriters 85 John St., New York City, New York
	Joe L. Lingo Public Safety Institute Purdue University West Lafayette, Indiana
	G. H. Parker, Manager Kentucky Inspection Bureau 940 Starks Building Louisville 2, Kentucky
	Lawrence L. Priar Sergeant Pennsylvania State Police Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
	Dr. R. C. Steinmetz Chief Special Agent Mutual Investigation Bureau 111 W. Washington St. Chicago, Illinois
	E. A. Wakefield Fire Und. Inv. Bureau 600 Coristine Bldg. Montreal, Quebec, Canada

(5) That the President be authorized to appoint a Sergeant-at-Arms to maintain good order at all meetings of the Association.

(6) That the President be authorized to assist and encourage organization of state or sectional or regional chapters of the Association, which may be recognized by the Board of Directors upon application of the chapter, provided that the President shall be authorized to appoint state or sectional or provincial vice presidents to assist in the effective functioning of the Association at the local level, and provided that the Constitution and By-Laws shall be amended to provide for the organization of these local chapters with membership in such chapters to be contingent upon membership in the Association.

(7) That the Constitution and By-Laws be amended to provide that no person who is, has been, or become a member of a subversive organization, or any organization whose objects and operations are inconsistent with the purposes of [sic] the Association, shall be eligible for membership.

(8) That the Constitution and By-Laws be amended to provide that no person under 25 years of age at the time he makes application shall be eligible for active membership in the Association.

(9) That dues [sic] for the year beginning July 1, 1950 be \$5.00 for active and associate members.

(10) That the Secretary furnish bond to the Association in the form and amount as designated by the Board of Directors, the Cost thereof to be paid by the Association.

The group then discussed the question whether a character investigation should be made of all present members and prospective members. Moved by T. C. Watkins, Atlanta, Ga., seconded by J. F. Gillece, Patterson, N. J. that all applicants and members shall submit a certified copy of their fingerprints and a local police clearance to the Association.

The President appointed Holly Palmer, Kansas City, Kansas, as Sergeant-at-Arms for the coming year.

The meeting was then adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

*W. L. Martin, Secretary
I.A.A.I.*

President Parker delivered a report summarizing the first year of the IAAI, when it had grown to 1,008 members.

The first official piece of correspondence involving the fledgling Association was mailed on July 5, 1949, by President Parker to the leaders and officers of the IAAI. The notice was to update the group, give direction in the coming year, and appoint a couple of committees.

First Government Involvement—August 9, 1949

The IAAI found the IRS was alive and well; it received Form 990 on August 9, 1949. This form was to assure the IAAI was in compliance with applicable rules and regulations governing a nonprofit status. The document was four pages in length to be filled out and filed by the end of the year.

President Truman orders development of the hydrogen bomb on January 31, 1950. North Korean Communist forces invade South Korea, June 25, 1950. President Truman orders U.S. forces into Korea, June 27, 1950. North Koreans capture Seoul. General Douglas MacArthur designated commander of unified U.N. forces, July 8, 1950. England's King George VI dies; his daughter becomes Queen Elizabeth II, February 6, 1952. Edmund Hillary, of New Zealand, and Tenzing Norkay, of Nepal, reach top of Mt. Everest, May 29, 1953. Alaska became the 49th state on January 3, 1959. Hawaii became the 50th state on August 21, 1959. Zip codes are introduced July 1, 1963. **The International Association of Arson Investigators adopts its first Constitution and Bylaws and is incorporated in the state of Kentucky.**

ASSOCIATION'S GROWTH '50s

During the first year, President Parker appointed William Martin to chair the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. William Martin prepared the first Constitution and Bylaws. At the 1950 meeting, they were adopted along with the motion to incorporate as a non-profit organization in the state of Kentucky.

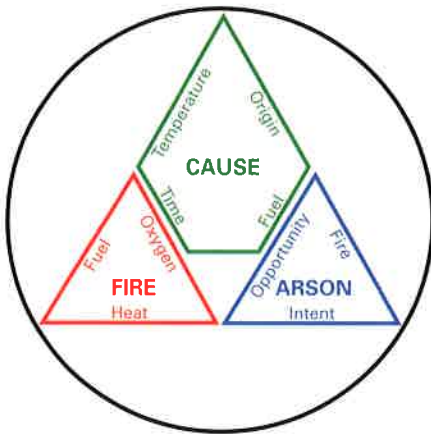
The first set of bylaws adopted in 1950 was printed and sent to the membership in 1952 along with the names, addresses and business addresses of the current members. The dues and application fees were \$1.00 and later increased to \$5.00. It is important to realize the IAAI depended on the officers and board volunteering their time, knowledge, personnel and money to get things done over the course of the year.

The IAAI's first membership application produced in 1950, was a two-page form which included Article II of the Constitution, "Membership." This application was replaced during the year by a shorter version, but it included a fingerprint requirement modeling itself after the application used by the International Association for Identification. This application remained in effect for about twenty years, being replaced by the present one.



A request for an official emblem was made by the officers in 1950. It was to include, but not be limited to, the scales of justice and flames. The records indicate that the first emblems were submitted in June 1950 for consideration by William L. Martin, State Fire Marshal of Kentucky and fourth President of the Association. The emblem adopted in 1952 resembles the one presently in use.

The symbol below was used on the magazine cover from 1968-70. An explanation of its symbolism was printed in the April-June, 1968, issue of *The Fire and Arson Investigator* by its editor John E. Stuerwald.



“From the Editor’s Corner

The symbol on the cover has been made available by Oregon State Fire Marshal, C. W. Stickney. It is an excellent reminder to us all that when the essential fire cause elements or factors for a given fire are known, we can usually determine the cause of that fire. We all are familiar with the Fire Triangle the three legs of which represent the essential elements of fire—heat, fuel and oxygen. Join them together and fire ‘happens.’

Fire Cause is also a ‘happening.’ It too has essential elements, five in number, which can be thought of as a pentagon whose sides represent: Time, Temperature, Origin, Fuel and Heat. Time—for the duration of burning before control; Temperature—for degree of heat attained in areas during the various stages of the fire; Fuel—for the material initially ignited; Heat—for the initial source of ignition. Each of these factors is important to the investigator in determining the path of fire travel back to the place where it started, the

reason why it started, and the factors influencing the continuation and communication of fire.

The use of the fire cause pentagon in the manner of the Fire Triangle, to isolate and promote better understanding of the essential elements of a fire cause, removes much of the doubt and guess work from fire investigation. Experience has shown the effectiveness of searching for the essential elements of Fire Cause.

John E. Stuerwald
Editor”

In its infancy, the IAAI dedicated itself to training, which addressed the needs of the experienced as well as the inexperienced investigator. It was the general tenor that those investigators, actively involved for several years, could benefit from being in attendance and studying the manuals that would be coming. The best results would be to train and educate those who were not experts in arson investigation, such as ordinary fire and police officers.

The first Advisory and Planning Committee meeting for the annual arson investigation seminar, involving the Officers of the Association and Purdue staff, was held December 11, 1950. This meeting was held at the Union League Club in Chicago, Illinois, and was chaired by Professor Shelby Gallien of Purdue University, since Professor Lingo was on a year's leave of absence and not expected to return until September 1951. At that meeting, it was agreed to hold the seminar registration fee to \$10. They estimated a budget of \$2,000 would be practical. This budget would cover arrangements for speakers, travel expenses, promotional materials, and other incidental costs. If the budget ran into a deficit, the Fire Underwriters' Investigation Bureau of Canada and the National Board of Fire Underwriters pledged to donate the money needed to cover any outstanding expenses.

The minutes of the early years show that seminar sessions ran from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. at Purdue. There were no such things as social events. Those in attendance were there to learn. The annual dinner was put in place in 1952. Wives were not barred from attending the conference, but they were not encouraged since the men were kept very busy all week. Research of the early history indicates the first wife or spouse who started to attend regularly was Sam Cobb's wife, Thelma. Several other wives joined her during the 1950s. They soon set up a hospitality area where other first time spouses could come and meet one another. They would read, knit or just chat over coffee and doughnuts while their husbands attended the classes. This hospitality area afforded the opportunity for the women to get to know one another as well as offering something to do during the day and into the evening. From this group came the reason for the banquets and spousal programs which have continued through the years.

The first IAAI newsletter, which was called the *News Letter*, was published in October 1949, under the heading "Confidential for Members Only." The *News Letter* carried information about new arson laws, conviction sentences issued by judges, and instructions from the National Board of Fire Underwriters about how to use the Dun and Bradstreet reports in arson investigation.

The IAAI entered into an agreement with *The Journal of Criminal Law, Criminology and Police Science* to publish papers, technical and legal notes concerning arson investigation and related crimes. Research through the early minutes indicates this contract was agreed upon in 1951 under George Clough, the President of the Association and Fire Marshal of Nassau County, Long Island, New York. This was in addition to the newsletters, which were being published through volunteer assistance under the guidance of then editor Dr. Richard Steinmetz. The journal was to be listed as the official publication for the Association, yet retained the right to represent other organizations or associations. It was to be published four times a year, at \$3.50 per issue and a minimum of 450 copies printed.

Presently there are thirty-five working committees within the structure of the IAAI. The first copy of the Constitution listed just two committees, the Nominating Committee and the Finance Committee. During the Association's first few years, various IAAI presidents brought other committees into service, such as the Legislative Committee, Seminar Advisory Committee, and the Membership Review Committee. The standing committees are the backbone of this Association. They are those committees mandated by the members at an annual meeting and placed into the Constitution. Standing committees must be active and work for the Association annually; other committees serve at the pleasure of the president.

The first award presented by the IAAI was in 1950; it was the Life Membership Award given to Joseph Lingo who was instrumental in starting the arson seminars at Purdue.

A program of state vice-presidents was put in place in 1951. They were appointed by the president annually and were usually those people who had been in attendance at several seminars. These vice-presidents would represent the Association in the various states and would have the responsibility of performing background checks on prospective members, as well as organizing within the state the chapters as we know them today.

In 1951, Holly Palmer of Kansas City, Kansas was appointed the first Sergeant-at-Arms. Since that time, many others have filled that position.

A request for a seminar, outside of Purdue, was received from state officials of Kentucky on May 17, 1950. They stated that as the first president was from their state and the IAAI was chartered in Kentucky, it would be proper to host an arson seminar. The request was refused for the following reason: "*for a number of years, Purdue had conducted seminars on arson investigation and, as its name implies, it is a school. The IAAI is an out-growth of the school and therefore must hold its meetings at Purdue University.*"

Clearly the move from Purdue was subjected to long and sometimes heated discussions but, in the long run, it proved to be essential to the existence and growth of the IAAI. The requests for membership increased as those attending the seminars at the new locations became interested after meeting with others and exchanging thoughts on common problems.

State chapters began to become an issue. The state of Ohio became the first chapter to be granted a charter in 1953. The IAAI presently has sixty-four chapters throughout the world.

A brief look at the membership over the years indicates that when the organization first started, there were a total of 268 charter members. Today the membership is approximately 8,500 throughout the world. This growth is caused by many reasons, including but not limited to, the educational programs provided for the members by the Training and Educational Committee and the publication, now known as the *Fire & Arson Investigator* magazine, along with the *Membership Directory*.

The backgrounds of the membership have changed over the years. Originally, the membership consisted of police, fire, and insurance investigators, as the roll call of the 1954 meeting will attest:

Police 41
Fire 84
Federal Government 20
Insurance 42
Fire Marshal, State and Municipal 30
Colleges, Universities and others 8

As of 1996, the professional membership background consisted of:

Police 1,013
Fire 3,773
Federal Government (*unknown*)
Insurance 1,086
Fire Marshal, State and Municipal 167
Private 1,336
Legal 221
Forensic 140
Colleges, Universities and others 126

It is interesting how the printing situation has changed over the years. The first newsletter was printed free of charge through the efforts of Dr. Steinmetz and the Mutual Investigation Bureau and other state and municipal agencies. It is now the largest part of the annual budget. The retirement of Dick Steinmetz caused the Association to look for a new editor. Fortunately, John Stuerwald assumed those duties in April 1968. Four other editors have followed. The magazine and its contents have continued to be the source of educational material and a credit to the editors, past and present.



The second editor of the "Fire & Arson Investigator," John Stuerwald as a New York State Trooper.

Further research indicates the first bylaw change took place in 1953, at the annual meeting held at Purdue University, where it dealt with the following:

1. Associate members shall not be less than twenty-five years of age at the time of making application, except that a person otherwise eligible for active membership may be less than that age;
2. The retiring President shall be an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors.

Lt. Col. John H. Glenn, Jr., is the first American to orbit the earth, February 20, 1962. Treaty for a partial nuclear test ban—agreement effective October 10, 1963, signed in Moscow, August 8, 1963, by the U.S., U.K., and the U.S.S.R. On November 22, 1963, President John F. Kennedy was assassinated. Xerox, in 1966, sells the Telecopier, commonly called a fax machine. Martin Luther King, Jr., civil rights leader, is slain in Memphis, April 4, 1968. Great Britain, Ireland, and Denmark enter European Common Market, January 1, 1973. President Nixon, on national TV, accepts responsibility, but not blame, for Watergate, April 30, 1973. U. S. bombing of Cambodia ends, marking official halt to 12 years of combat activity in Southeast Asia, August 15, 1973. **The International Association of Arson Investigators hires its first full-time employee and sets up the first permanent office.**

FULL-TIME STAFF & PERMANENT OFFICE '73

As the Association's involvement in different issues and organizations increased, it became necessary to employ a full-time staff member to take care of the day-to-day operation of the IAAI. The first full-time employee was Robert E. May, a former FBI agent, a supervisor with the National Board of Fire Underwriters, and the State Fire Marshal of Illinois. Bob became Secretary of the Association in 1973.

As the work load increased, Elaine May was added to the staff. Both have received awards of Life Membership from the Association.

The first permanent office was established in the May's home in Springfield, Illinois, in 1973. Since the office was in the May's home, it increased the efficiency of the IAAI business. When the Mays moved to Marlboro, Massachusetts, in 1977, so did the IAAI office.

After the Mays retired in 1987, the office was moved to 5428 Del Maria Way, Suite 201, Louisville, Kentucky. This site held the IAAI office from April 14, 1987 until March 29, 1991. It was located on the second floor of a business complex. The office was moved in March, 1991, to 5616 Bardstown Road, a stand alone office building. This provided the IAAI office additional space to ease its growing pains and was more accessible. In March, 1993, the International office moved again to its present location, 300 South Broadway, Suite 100, St. Louis, Missouri.

FROM AN ASPIRATION FIFTY YEARS AGO



1973

1987



1993



1991



Richard M. Nixon announces he will resign, the first President to do so, August 8, 1974. First oil from Alaska's Prudhoe Bay fields pours from 799-mile pipeline at ice-free port of Valdez, July 28, 1977. In 1980, Senator John Glenn attached an amendment to the appropriation bill, making arson a Part I crime. A retired dentist, Dr. Barney B. Clark, became the first recipient of a permanent artificial heart, December 2, 1982. Moments after liftoff, January 28, 1986, the space shuttle Challenger exploded, killing 6 astronauts and Christa McAuliffe, a New Hampshire teacher. One of the largest oil spills in U.S. history occurred after the *Exxon Valdez* struck Bligh Reef in Alaska's Prince William Sound, March 24, 1989. East meets West, in 1989, as the Berlin wall comes tumbling down in Germany. **The International Association of Arson Investigators realigns its committees to better serve the growing number of members worldwide.**

A TIME FOR CHANGE

As the Association grew and prospered, many changes took effect. New positions and committees were created to better serve the growing number of members worldwide. A few of the more notable changes follow.

Presidents were elected for one-year terms from 1949 through 1960. They were then elected for two-year terms from 1961-1974. After 1974, it was returned to a one-year term mainly because of the work load and the hiring of a full-time employee.

The board of directors was increased in 1954, from 6 to 15 members.

Awards were presented to members who, through diligent service, earned them. These were the Distinguished Service Award (named for the first President George Parker), along with a Life



1986 President, Bill Buxton, presents a painting to Mr. and Mrs. John Stuerwald, with assistance from Secretary Bob May, at the Atlanta Annual Seminar.

**OFFICERS AND LEADERS OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
ARSON INVESTIGATORS
MAY 17, 1999**



1990 President, David Smith, presents Dean L. Price with the Life Membership Award, at the Michigan Annual Meeting.

Membership Award. Over the years additional awards came into existence, such as the Award of Recognition, Investigator of the Year Award, Out-

standing Chapter Award, Outstanding Accomplishment Award, Photography Award, Scholarship Award, Student Essay Award, Humanitarian Award and the President's Award.

Father David Arnold was invited to be the Association's Chaplain in 1983. Father Arnold remained the Chaplain until his retirement in 1996. A memorial service for the departed members, as well as a non-sectarian service for those in attendance, became an annual start to the seminar. The Association has continued the chaplain's position.



Past President (1983), Robert Doran and first Chaplain, Father David Arnold at the Atlanta Annual Meeting.

In 1983, an attorney was added to the board of directors to ensure that decisions met legal criteria. John R. Lewis, an attorney from New York, was chosen, and the position became that of an ex-officio member of the board. He retired in 1992. There have

- President:** Judith Maydew
Underwriters Adjustment
36 Brookshire Court
Bedford, NS B4A 4E9 Canada
- 1st Vice President:** Robert Kramer
Bureau of ATF - Federal Building
550 Main St.-Room 8002
Cincinnati, OH 45203
- 2nd Vice President:** Gerard J. Naylis, ARM
Arkwright
201 State Route 17 North
Rutherford, NJ 07070-2574
- Directors
Term Expires
1999:** Lloyd Johnson
Lloyd Johnson & Associates
4440 N. Rancho Dr., Suite 199
Las Vegas, NV 89130
- I. J. Kranats
Kranats & Company Investigation
438 Kranats Drive
Demorest, GA 30535
- Cory W. Reeves, CFI
S.E.A., Inc.
11684 Liburn Park Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63146
- Eileen Stauss
Law Office of Eileen Stauss
33600 6th Ave South, Suite 101
Federal Way, WA 98003
- Michael Schlatman
Consolidated Forensic Invest.
P.O. Box 16144
Shawnee Mission, KS 66203
- Directors
Term Expires
2000:** Guy E. "Sandy" Burnette
Butler, Burnette and Pappas
3520 Thomasville Rd., Suite 102
Tallahassee, FL 32308
- James D. "Jimmy" Johnson
Chief of Criminal Investigations
121 Yucca Dr.
Long Beach, MS 39560
- Kenneth M. Johnson
State Farm Fire & Casualty
102 Brookshire Lane
Beckley, WV 25801-1114
- Kenneth A. Moore
Fire Investigator
7524 Locust St.
Hughson, CA 95326
- James J. "Jamie" Novak
Chief Fire Investigator
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St. Paul, MN 55101

**Directors
Term Expires
2001:** R. Kirk Hankins, CFI
Columbia Police Department
P.O. Box 1641
Columbia, MO 65205-1641

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**General
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Meriden, CT 06451-1922

Parliamentarian: Terry-Dawn Hewitt
McKenna-Hewitt
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Edmonton, ALTA T5J 3R8
Canada

Parliamentarian: Robert J. Doran
3110 S. Cygnet Terrace
Inverness, FL 34450

Sergeants-at-Arms: Joseph Molnar
Kranats & Company Investigation
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Demorest, GA 30535

Dean Price
1329 Highland Dr.
McPherson, KS 67460

W.R. "Casey" Jones
305 Burntwood
Sherwood, AR 72116

**Financial
Advisor:** Alan Graham
Bureau of ATF
10 Causeway St., Suite 795
Boston, MA 02222-1079

Chaplain: Bill Buckley
S.E.A., Inc.
6101 Johns Rd., Suite 3
Tampa, FL 33634

been two attorneys since, with Michael J. Pavlisin currently filling the position.

A permanent parliamentarian was added, in 1993, as ex-officio member of the board.

The election process was changed in 1984 so that the voting procedure became more in line with the times. Elections were placed under the direction of the past presidents, and voting was held the morning before the annual meeting. This permitted the meeting to proceed without the long delay in counting votes.

The Past Presidents Council was formed in 1986 to be chaired by the immediate past president. The Council acts as advisor to the president and the board. They are also subject to be called to serve as the Appellate Review Board for appeals in cases where members are disciplined.

A candidates' forum was started in the late eighties so that those running for their respective offices would have an opportunity to address their peers. The members had the opportunity to hear and evaluate the candidates before voting.

Growing budgets required professional attention, and so the position of Financial Advisor was created in 1989.

May 3, 1993, the Branch Davidian in Waco, Texas ended in a violent explosion. June 27, 1994, news channels played over and over the most incredible chase in history, O.J. Simpson in his white Bronco. In the Spring of 1995, millions of people entered a new dimension, known as Cyberspace. **The International Association of Arson Investigators becomes more involved with political actions regarding the fire industry. The Benjamin Franklin Memorial Fire Service Bill of Rights passage in 1993, results in the minting of the Ben Franklin Firefighters Silver Medal.**

POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT

The IAAI emerged from the first Williamsburg Conference in 1972 as one of the major fire service groups in the United States. This leadership position was crafted by Past Presidents Bob Carter, Bob Weatherington, and H. Ray Vliet. It was a crucial time for the IAAI. At “Williamsburg” in the early 1970s two important decisions were made. Several of the recognized national fire service groups gathered to plan a national fire service strategy to implement the report of President Nixon’s Fire Prevention and Control Commission report “America Burning.” The IAAI played an important role.

First, the Joint Council of National Fire Service Organization was organized with the IAAI as one of the charter members. Secondly, the National Professional Qualifications System was established bringing professionalism to the uniformed fire service. It was here that the very first national standards were envisioned for fire investigators.



Ben Franklin Firefighters Silver Medal

In 1976, Robert E. Carter, then Chairman of the Joint Council of National Fire Service Organizations, met with President Gerald R. Ford on the signing of a bill authorizing appropriations for the National Fire Prevention and Control Administration and the Center for Fire Research, both



President Gerald R. Ford with Robert E. Carter, Chairman of the Joint Council of National Fire Service Organizations, on the occasion of the signing of a bill authorizing appropriations for the National Fire Prevention and Control Administration and the Center for Fire Research, both U.S. Department of Commerce agencies.

U.S. Departments of Commerce agencies. The bill authorized appropriations totaling more than \$51 million for two years for the agencies. Mr. Carter represented the IAAI on the Council for many years. He served as the sixteenth President of the IAAI.

These standards later became part of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Code and Standard making process. Carter, Weatherington and Vliet were instrumental in writing the fledgling standards. In the mid 1980s Bob May became chair of the Joint Council and also assumed a new position, that being a sub committee chair of the Fire Investigator Professional Qualifications Committee. Formerly all standards for fire inspectors, fire investigators, and fire prevention officers were lumped together. Bob May completed his term with the revision of this document in the late 1980s. The NFPA assumed the full responsibility of supporting the standards around the same time. A decision was made to create separate standards for each discipline. In 1990, new committees were appointed. Steve Austin who had served on the Joint Council with Weatherington, Vliet,

and then May, was appointed the Chair of the newly created Fire Investigator Professional Qualification Committee (NFPA 1033). Austin continues to serve as the Chairman of the NFPA Fire Investigator's Professional Qualifications Committee.

In 1983, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms requested the Association's help as they entered the field of arson investigation. The IAAI sent First Vice President, Robert Doran, to the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco, Georgia to help draft an *Arson for Profit* Course, which would become available to state and local law enforcement personnel.

In the mid 1980s it became apparent to the IAAI leadership that representation in Washington, DC, was necessary to properly represent the IAAI membership in dealing with the United States Government. There was an added responsibility to work closer with other groups that represented their fire service members in Washington. Beginning with President William Buxton, Steve Austin was authorized to represent the Association in matters involving fire service relations.

Upon the election of Congressman Curt Weldon in 1986, the IAAI became a partner in helping the Congressman organize the Congressional Fire Services Caucus and the Congressional Fire Services Institute. The IAAI was appointed to the CFSI National Advisory Committee. The crowning achievement for the Association in this relationship was the Benjamin Franklin Memorial Fire Service Bill of Rights passed in 1993. At first, the IAAI Educational Foundation was not included in the legislation. The late George Lewis, Delaware County, PA, Fire Marshal and an officer in the Pennsylvania Chapter convinced the Congressman to include the IAAI.

As a result of George's persistence, funding was received by the Foundation in the amount of two-hundred-twenty-five thousand dollars from the sale of special coins commemorating Franklin and the Fire Service. The Foundation endowed many arson control projects with these funds.

With the creditability the Association had built, it soon signed cooperative agreements or memorandums of understandings with the United States Fire Administration, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Consumer Products Safety Commission. Working with



(Left to Right) George Phelps, Jack Yates, Robert Whitmore, Hal Bruno, ABC News, John Barracato and Steve Austin.



Newt Gingrich addresses the attendees at the Ninth Annual Congressional Fire Service Institute (CFSI) Dinner.

Congress and the White House, under the direction of President Alan Clark, the IAAI took the lead fire service role in President Clinton's Church Arson Initiative providing valuable arson prevention education throughout the United States. The IAAI was recognized by the Congressional Fire Service Institute for its work on the church arson issue.

When the Joint Council decided to dissolve itself in the early 1990s the issue of the National Professional Qualifications System had to be resolved. The Joint Council administered the "Pro Board," as it was known. Acting in the best

interest of IAAI members the Association agreed to be part of a new organization, the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (NBFSPQ). The new "Pro Board" currently has accredited over twenty states, provinces and organizations including the IAAI Certified Fire Investigator Program. Steve Austin serves as the Vice Chair of the Board of Directors and Benny King is a member of the Committee on Accreditation. The IAAI involvement, which began with the establishing professional qualifications for the uniformed fire service in 1972, now encompasses the broad range of fire



Unveiling of the Ben Franklin Memorial Coin in 1993.



(Left to Right) Representative Curt Weldon, Vice President Al Gore, 1993 IAAI President Robert Whitmore, Representative Steny Hoyer, and Representative Paul Sorbaine.

protection personnel both uniformed and civilian in the public and private sectors.

The IAAI today cooperates and confers with the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms, the United States Fire Administration, the Consumer Products Safety Commission, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Center for Fire Research at the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

The IAAI has developed strategic relationships with the major fire service groups and meets monthly to discuss fire issues. IAAI leadership recognizes that to be a true professional organization the IAAI must weigh in on issues that impact our members.



1993 President, Robert Whitmore at the Ben Franklin Memorial Fire Service Bill of Rights passage.

The Benjamin Franklin Memorial Fire Service Bill of Rights' passage in 1993, resulted in the minting of the Ben Franklin Firefighters Silver Medal. The Association played a major role in the passage of this bill, and several members of the Association had the honor of being with Vice President Gore on the front lawn of the White House for the official introduction of this coin.

This is the first coin minted by the United States Mint honoring America's firefighters for their accomplishments throughout the history of the country. Because of the active role that the IAAI and several other fire service groups had throughout the legislative process, a portion of



1996 IAAI President, Alan Clark, with President Bill Clinton.

the proceeds from the sale of these coins, in the amount of \$225,000, was presented to the Association for educational purposes. This money has since been disbursed through grants to the chapters for the purchase of training aids, such as, projectors, vcrs, program designs, etc. It was also used for financial assistance for members outside the North American continent to attend the IAAI annual seminars and bring the course materials back to other members throughout the world.

The IAAI was represented at the White House on two separate occasions in 1996. On June 26, IAAI Past President Alan Clark met with President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore in the Map Room of the White House. During that meeting, a resolution concerning the church arson problem was presented to the President of the United States. On July 10, IAAI Government Affairs Representative, Steve Austin, represented the IAAI at a White House Rose Garden bill signing and news conference. President Clinton addressed those in attendance about the Church Arson Bill passed by Congress then signed the legislation into law.

Also in 1996, a *Memorandum of Understanding* was signed between the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and the IAAI. The purpose of the agreement was to: (1) set forth a commitment of continued cooperation between CPSC and IAAI; (2) information exchange be-

tween the two organizations; (3) outline the general conditions under which IAAI and CPSC cooperative efforts will be formulated and conducted; and (4) set forth those information, technical and other services to be provided by each organization. Through this cooperative effort, both organizations can work together toward the common goal of improving public fire safety, the sharing of technical information and the training of fire investigators. The IAAI also entered into talks with the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers and a memorandum of understanding was later signed with the two associations working together to produce joint training seminars.

Over the years, the Association has appointed representatives to act as liaison between the IAAI and other fire service organizations.

The Association currently has representatives in the following organizations:

- ◆ Alliance for Fire & Emergency Management
- ◆ American Academy of Forensic Science (AFAFS)
- ◆ Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms (BATF)
- ◆ Congressional Fire Service Institute (CFSI)
- ◆ Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI)
- ◆ Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- ◆ Fire Marshal's Association of North America
- ◆ Fraternal Order of Police (FOP)
- ◆ Insurance Committee for Arson Control (ICAC)
- ◆ International Association of Black Firefighters (IABFF)
- ◆ International Association of Bomb Technicians (IABT)
- ◆ International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)
- ◆ International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC)
- ◆ International Association of Firefighters (IAFF)
- ◆ International Association of Special Investigative Units
- ◆ International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA)
- ◆ National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies (NAMIC)
- ◆ National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM)
- ◆ National Fire Protection Association (NFPA & 1033)
- ◆ National Fire Protection Association (NFPA 921)
- ◆ National Volunteer Fire Counsel (NVFC)
- ◆ United States Fire Administration



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 22, 1999

Congratulations to the members of the International Association of Arson Investigators as you celebrate your organization's 50th anniversary.

Since 1949, the IAAI has been a leader in the professional development of fire and arson investigators worldwide. You have played a vital role in the extraordinary progress achieved in the field of arson investigation -- progress that is a testament to your association's unwavering commitment to public safety.

I commend you for using innovative methods and technology to reduce the threat of arson and to bring criminals to justice. As you mark this milestone in the IAAI's history, you can take pride in your leadership, vision, and accomplishments during the past half-century and look to the 21st century with confidence. Your efforts are helping to build a better and safer future for us all.

Best wishes for a memorable anniversary celebration and continued success in the years to come.

Bill Clinton



Bob May
First Executive Secretary



Elaine May
First Administrative Assistant



John Lewis
First General Counsel



Rev. David Arnold
First Chaplain



Alan Graham
Financial Advisor



Michael Pavlisin
General Counsel



Terry-Dawn Hewitt
Parliamentarian



Pam Craig-White
Editor
Fire & Arson Investigator
IAAI Fiftieth Anniversary
Commemorative Book



Benny King
Executive Director



Marcia Sipes
Association Secretary



Shirley Cristoffersen
Past Association Secretary



Diane Dorian
Past Association Secretary



Karen Moser
Past Association Secretary



Tony Ahart
Past Executive
Secretary



Tracy Bennett
Secretary



Judie Dobbs
Past Secretary



Bruce Ettling
Past Editor



Linda Hume
Past Editor



David Ieove
Past Assistant Editor

“ich dien”

The Association Staff

... serving you and your organization over the years.

PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE IAAI

Prior to the mid-seventies photographs were not used in the *News Letter*, *Fire & Arson Investigator* magazine or the *Membership Directory*. Photos of many of the earlier presidents were not available.

(★ Deceased)

(Not Pictured)

George H. Parker 1949-1950★
 Roderick K. Goeriz 1950-1951★
 George W. Clough 1951-1952★
 William L. Martin 1952-1953★
 Charles L. Haggerty 1953-1954★
 Lawrence L. Prior 1954-1955★
 Samuel T. Sides 1956-1957★
 Edward J. Desjardins 1957-1958
 Glenn D. Bennett 1958-1959
 Willis S. Peterson 1960-1961
 James L. Smith 1970-1972★
 Dan Econ 1972-1974★
 Wilbur R. Johnson 1974-1975



Richard C. Steinmetz 1955-1956★



William D. Rossiter 1959-1960★



Samuel S. Cobb 1962-1964



Patrick J. Collins 1964-1966★



John E. Stuerwald 1966-1968★



Robert E. Carter 1968-1970



Walter E. Weatherington 1975-1976



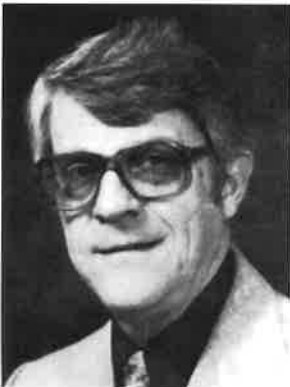
William R. Rucinski 1976-1977



H. Ray Vliet 1977-1978



William G. Earle 1978-1979



Weldon C. Carmichael 1979-1980



Jack S. Bennett 1980-1981*



Daniel B. Lemieux 1981-1982



Louis H. Taranto 1982-1983



Robert J. Doran 1983-1984



James A. Gamm 1984-1985



William N. Buxton 1985-1986



Thomas R. Brace 1986-1987



John H. Primrose 1987-1988



Donald "Ben" Cypher 1988-1989



David M. Smith 1989-1990



Jack L. Sneed 1990-1991*



Jack A. Ward 1991-1992



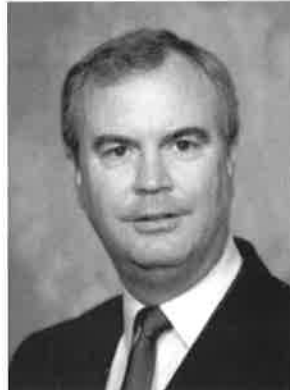
Jean-Claude Cloutier 1992-1993



Robert B. Whitmore 1993-1994



John S. Barracato 1994-1995



Jack V. Yates 1995-1996



Alan L. Clark 1996-1997



Philip R. Horbert 1997-1998



Judith E. Maydew 1998-1999



Robert R. Kramer 1999-2000

Economy is growing; trade deficit soared in 1996. On April 15, 1996, in Lincoln, Montana, the Unabomber, John Kacynski was finally found after years of being hunted. Clinton names first woman secretary of state, Madeleine Albright, December 5, 1996. Timothy J. McVeigh, was convicted and sentenced to death on June 2, 1997 for the April 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City that killed 168 people. Cloning of humans debated as the first successful cloning of an adult sheep is announced in February, 1997. **The International Association of Arson Investigators Educational Foundation, Inc., is incorporated as a not-for-profit entity in Missouri.**

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The IAAI, in its desire and need to develop educational programs for the membership, particularly in an environment which would be conducive to study, decided on a permanent building and, in the process, started an Educational and Permanent Building Foundation by soliciting funds from within the Association during the late eighties. Over the years this foundation has become a separate entity with its own officers and directors. It was given the official name of the “**International Association of Arson Investigators, Educational Foundation, Inc.**” The Educational Foundation was originally a not-for-profit corporation in Louisville, Kentucky, ironically, the same as the parent association when first organized, occurring because our office had returned to Louisville. In 1993, with the office located in St. Louis, Missouri, the Educational Foundation filed the appropriate paper work and dissolved the Kentucky not-for-profit corporation and became incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation under Missouri Law.

Additional changes occurred in the mid 1990s. The John Charles Wilson Scholarship Fund was transferred from the IAAI jurisdiction to the Educational Foundation. A mission statement was developed so that the Corporation could raise money from the public and private sectors as well as from governments, corporations, and other sources. As a result of these changes, the Foundation has received grants, which were then passed on to the state chapters and special groups who applied for fire education funding and were approved by the Foundation Board. There is still an ongoing effort to secure a building for the training and educational needs of those involved in fire investigation. Further changes will be necessary as we move into the next century.

CFI Program

In 1986, the Association resolved a national concern by developing the *Certified Fire Investigator (CFI)* program. This program was developed partly from a program already established in Illinois. The CFI program is an established procedure for identifying and recognizing a fire investigator's expertise.

Today, the Association has one of the finest certification programs in the field, which includes a comprehensive written test. Prior to the written exam, the investigator must fill out a multi-page document attesting to the investigator's training, experience, and education. This must be approved by the committee before testing. A nationally recognized testing firm monitors the program.



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what organization
you belong to.*

International Association of Arson Investigators
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St. Louis, MO 63102
314-621-1966
Fax: 314-621-5125

Thanks To IAAI For Opening Our Eyes To Arson And Fraud

Justice may be blind, but we can't afford to be! Fraud — particularly arson — robs the economy of millions of dollars each year.

Over the last 50 years, IAAI has been a major force in arson prevention. Because of its efforts, investigators have a channel through which they can share their knowledge and expertise. Public awareness and education may be the best weapons we have in this on-going struggle.

Grinnell Mutual is proud to be associated with the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI). Alan Clark, director of investigation services at Grinnell Mutual, served as president of IAAI from April 1996 through May 1997 and remains active within the organization.

GMRC looks forward to working together with IAAI for the next 50 years to combat arson and fraud in the insurance industry.

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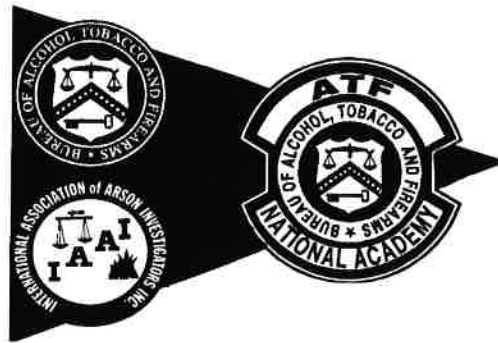
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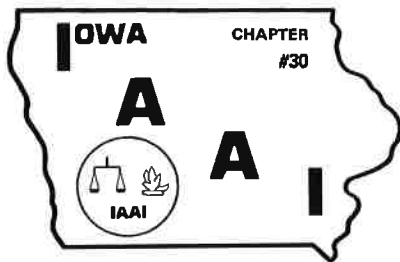
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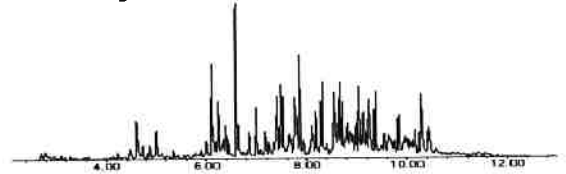
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Liberal Party retains power in Canada. The June 2, 1997 parliamentary election in Canada resulted in another victory for the Liberal Party headed by Prime Minister Jean Chretien. All of Canada's premiers and territorial leaders, except the premier of Quebec, met in Calgary, Alberta, September 14, 1997, and agreed to a proposed 7-point unity accord affirming the equality of all provinces, while identifying Quebec's government as guarantor of "the unique character of Quebec society." With the America's Cup in New Zealand and the Summer Olympics in Australia, 2000 promises to be an eventful year "down under." **International's Annual General Meetings held outside the continental U.S.**

INTERNATIONAL INVOLVEMENT

Canada

Canadian members were very much involved in the early history, much of this owed to Edward J. Desjardins, a Lieutenant Colonel and the Fire Marshal in the Canadian Army. Colonel Desjardins was the ninth President, serving during the year 1957-1958. Another Canadian who had a great effect on the involvement of our neighbors to the north was Patrick J. Collins of the Fire Underwriters Investigation Bureau of Canada (FUIB). Pat Collins served as the fourteenth President (1964-66). During this time he became the General Manager of the FUIB. There have been a total of five Canadians who became President of the IAAI, including the reigning President Judy Maydew, the first woman elected to serve on the Board of Directors.

One of the other two Canadians was Daniel B. Lemieux (1981-82), former Western Division Manager of the Insurance Crime Prevention Bureau, which succeeded the FUIB. Daniel Lemieux founded the first Canadian chapter in his home Province of British Columbia. He was also responsible for the IAAI holding its first ever Annual General Meeting outside the United States. Jean-Claude Cloutier (1992-93), then President of the Insurance Crime Prevention Bureau, was President when we held the first ever Annual General meeting outside the North American continent, in 1993, at Auckland, New Zealand.

Others served on the Board of Directors who, for many reasons, did not ascend through the chairs to the Presidency. Many early Canadian members had ties to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police either before becoming a member or when applying for membership in the IAAI. They have



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It gives me great pleasure to convey my warmest greetings to everyone celebrating the 50th anniversary of the International Association of Arson Investigators.

As an active and well-respected organization with chapters around the world, the International Association of Arson Investigators can claim a long history of commitment to the well-being of the communities it serves. Your organization, through the exchange of information and cooperation with law enforcement agencies, is integral to the control of arson and related crimes. The benefits derived from this team work are surely the full sharing of ideas, as well as the effective protection of lives and property. You may take great pride in your collective efforts to suppress crime and advance fire investigations.





Please accept my best wishes for every success in the years ahead.

OTTAWA
1998



all contributed much to the IAAI, helping make the Association what it is today. As it currently stands, the IAAI has five very active Canadian chapters in the Provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario, Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan.

New Zealand

-  National Capital
-  Towns and Cities
-  District Boundary
-  District Name

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MAYOR'S OFFICE
AUCKLAND

1st September 1998

50th ANNIVERSARY - INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INVESTIGATORS INC

As Mayor of Auckland City I am pleased to congratulate and endorse the members of the Fire Investigators Association of New Zealand Inc. (the 43rd Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators Inc.)

By world standards Auckland is still a young city, with a European history going back about 150 years, and a Maori history covering 800 years. From small beginnings on the shores of two beautiful harbours, Auckland is now a truly international city which still offers priceless assets from its historic past, including clean beaches and quiet bush walks only minutes from the bustling central city.

Our city has also become an increasingly important conference venue hosting many international conventions and events including an International Seminar in association with the IAAI which was held here in 1993. For this, the New Zealand Chapter is to be especially congratulated for the part it played in the preparation and hosting of this important event. This was the only IAAI seminar to be held outside North America and one in which we are all proud.

The NZ Chapter has a very active New Zealand wide membership and plays a valuable role in promoting professional standards and continuity to awareness of the industry in New Zealand.

Yours sincerely

Mr Les Mills
Mayor of Auckland City

Auckland City Council, Private Bag 92316, Auckland, New Zealand Phone: (09) 307-7585 Fax: (09) 307-7591
23 SEP 1998

New Zealand

New Zealand, the 45th Chapter of the IAAI was the first chapter to make a bid to host an annual general conference outside North America. The bid was made at the 1990 Annual Meeting in Dearborn, Michigan by the New Zealand Chapter President Bruce Waters, assisted by New Zealand Chapter Past Presidents, Bruce Gordon and Steve Dyer. The bid was successful. The seminar contract was rewritten to meet the New Zealand Government Tax Laws. Final arrangements were made for the 44th Annual Conference to be held in Auckland, New Zealand in May 1993. The Pan Pacific Hotel at Auckland provided an excellent venue for over 400 members, making this seminar a complete success.

China regains control of Hong Kong after 99 years as a British territory, Hong Kong was returned to China on July 1, 1997. U.S. Spacecraft lands on Mars, July 4, 1997. Diana, Princess of Wales, dies in car crash, August 31, 1997. Panama Canal Treaties—Approved by the U.S. Senate in March and April of 1978. The treaty provides for turning the canal over to Panama by the year 2000. Until noon December 31, 1999, the canal will be operated by the U.S. **The International Association of Arson Investigators Board of Directors takes a more active role in the business dealings of the Association. The Association celebrates 50 years of dedication to arson control and prevention, May 17-21, 1999.**

FALL BOARD MEETINGS

In the early eighties, the work load of the board of directors increased significantly. After a poll of the board by the president and executive secretary, it was unanimously agreed to have a fall board meeting aside from the annual meeting. The first fall meeting was held in Clearwater, Florida, in 1983. The meeting was two-fold; one, to handle the business of the Association, and two, to review the upcoming seminar scheduled in Clearwater, Florida, in 1984.

The IAAI board of directors continues to meet twice a year for Association business. The review of the upcoming seminar sites and host hotels has been placed in the hands of the Seminar Site Selection Committee.

The International board at various times still travels to areas around the country, at the pleasure of the president, to hold the fall board meeting. This has proven to be beneficial because the board will handle the business of the Association and then invite the local chapter members to attend, allowing members to meet with the elected officials of the IAAI.

Left side of table: B. W. Scott, William N. Buxton, James A. Gamm, Jean-Claude Cloutier, Donald B. Cypher, James H. Jessup, Myron A. Franks, J. W. Dunlop (Sergeant-at-Arms), Louis H. Taranto (1st Vice President), Dan Lemieux (President), Robert J. Doran (2nd Vice President), Right side of table from back: Robert E. May (Executive Secretary), Dean Price, W. R. "Casey" Jones, Nicolas Gonzales, Richard E. Diltz, John H. Primrose, Thomas R. Brace. Standing in back of room: William R. Rucinski (Past President), Weldon Carmichael (Past President), John E. Stuerwald (Editor), William D. Rossiter (Past President), William E. Earl (Past President).





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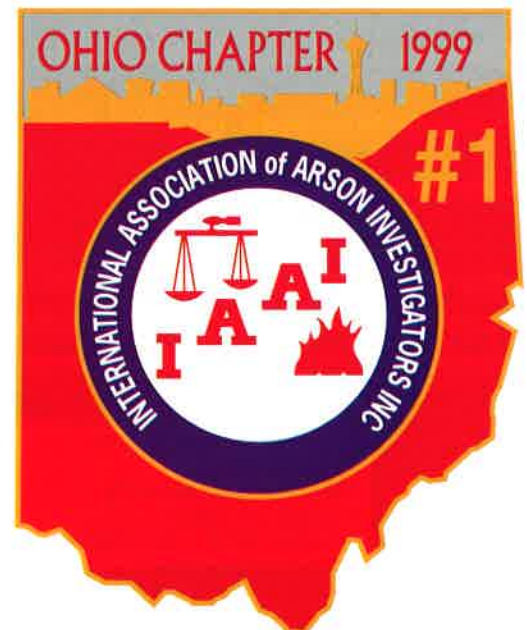
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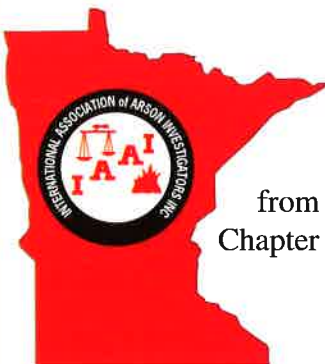
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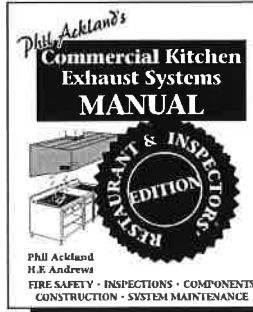
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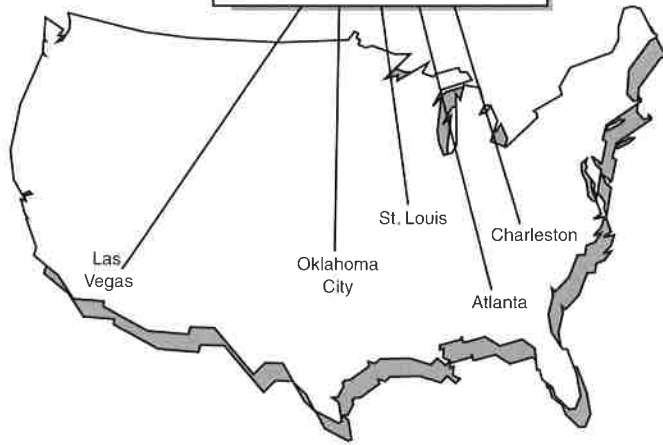


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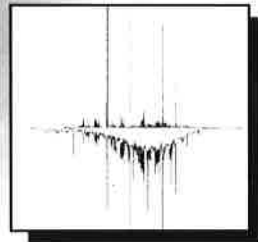
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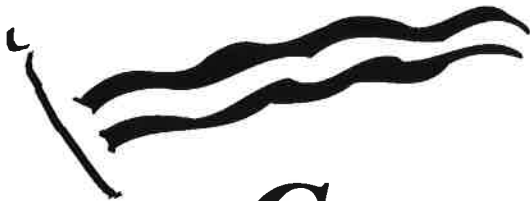


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“It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, and comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.”

—THEODORE ROOSEVELT

PRESIDENTIAL RECOLLECTIONS

William D. Rossiter
1959-1960

During Bill's term the first printed membership directory was brought out. Prior to this we had mimeographed sheets stapled together. Bill proposed an amendment to the Constitution setting the President's term of office at two years. Bill did wait until his own one year term was up before placing the amendment, as he did not want anyone to think that he was seeking an additional year as President. The two-year terms of office remained in effect for fourteen years. In 1974, the office of Executive Secretary was created and much of the President's work was performed by the Secretary, this was when the one year term returned. During Bill's term the International Association of Chiefs of Police arranged for members of the Philippine Bureau of Investigation to come to the USA to study American law enforcement procedures. One of the Agents, Pedro (Pete) Tandoc, was to supervise arson investigation. He spent some time with the Detroit Arson Squad. Glenn Bennett, head of the Detroit arson unit and Immediate Past President of the IAAI sent Pete Tandoc over to work with Bill in Milwaukee where Bill was a representative of a state arson unit and also President of the IAAI. Bill and Pete got along famously and Pete became quite interested in the IAAI. In fact he joined up and paid in advance for his second year's dues. Bill did appoint him Vice President for the Republic of the Philippines. Back in those days, the In-

ternational did have State Vice Presidents and Provincial Vice Presidents in Canada; Bill established the first Country Vice Presidents. Pete Tandoc asked if the Association had a certificate that he could hang in his office. None did exist but resourceful Bill took a sheet of IAAI letterhead with his name on it. Then he copied a part of a Notary Public appointment and part of his own Army discharge. In effect it all said "Having great faith in the integrity, patriotism and ability of Pete Tandoc, I hereby appoint him. . ." Then he got a big gold seal, took ribbon off his typewriter and typed "VICE PRESIDENT, REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES," International Association of Arson Investigators and signed his name with a flourish. Bill stuck the seal on the bottom of the page and the document looked quite impressive.

Bill concluded his letter with this paragraph:

"Bob, in retrospect, I will repeat what I said at the Director's Meeting in Bloomington, MN a couple of years ago. During my time in the hierarchy of the IAAI, those were simpler times and the organization was run by simpler people, like me. But we kept the faith, did our best and laid the groundwork for the great organization we now have."

**Patrick J. Collins
1964-1966**

From May 1949 to May 1964 it was the practice to hold the IAAI Annual Meeting at Purdue University in Indiana. This did include the Annual Arson Seminar. During the 1964 Annual Meeting it was approved by the Officers and Board of Directors and membership to transfer the next Annual Meeting and Seminar to Michigan where it would be held in conjunction with the Arson Seminar conducted by the University of Michigan and the Michigan Chapter. At this same Annual Meeting in 1964, I was elected President of the International.

At the Michigan Seminar most members of the Board of Directors did participate as lecturers. A highlight of this seminar was the 1st Mock Trial based on an actual arson investigation conducted by the Michigan State Police Fire Marshal's Office and municipal authorities. Judges and prosecutors and defense counsel did participate. This program was outstanding. The use of the Mock Trial has taken place many times all over the United States and Canada since the 1st appearance in 1965 at Michigan.

The next Annual Meeting took place in 1966 at the University of Maryland. There was a exerted effort to make it truly INTERNATIONAL. Patrick was able to arrange for Directors of the Ontario Provincial Police College and the Ontario Forensic Laboratory and the Senior Fire Marshal of New Brunswick to participate in the program.

The 2nd Mock Trial took place in Maryland. A very experienced prosecuting attorney and a senior detective from Montreal took part in the trial. The Canadian way of interrogation proved to be most interesting to the U.S. members of the Association.

This case involved a husband and wife with a case of arson. We were very fortunate to have Charlie Wilson take the part of the wife. Bear in mind that back in 1965 there were no women members in the International. Charlie was the hit of the program as he not only put to use his expertise as a witness but his acting ability. To put it mildly, Charlie as a buxom blonde "Charlene" was a riot! It was duly noted that much of what Charlie acted out did in fact come from actual cases and encountered in arson trials.

I will never forget my term of office, being on the Board of Directors and, more important, being a member of the International Association of Arson Investigators."

**Weldon C. Carmichael
1979-1980**

During my term as President, the shortest of any President being from May 1979 to March of 1980, there was a significant amount accomplished.

1) After sitting dormant for three years, a plan was formulated and put into action to move the Charles Wilson Scholarship Fund forward, and some money in the bank, was converted into Certificates of Deposit. Interest earned from the Certificates was deposited the first year into the Charles Wilson Scholarship Fund enabling the Fund to award their first Scholarship.

2) The Association was compensated for operating funds for the U.S. Fire Administration. This resulted in a program the IAAI had for a period of years.

3) A plan was formulated to inspect the office of the Executive Secretary by the President and First Vice President annually. It has since been adopted that the office and books should be audited by the Finance Committee annually.

4) No expense money had ever been appropriated for the President's office. It was recommended and approved that the Presidents following in 1981 be allowed an expense of \$1,000 to cover postage, typing, and other expense. The amount over the years has increased and is now a budgeted item.

5) The Youth Essay Contest was initiated and I was honored by the Contest being named after me.

6) After many years of effort to make Arson a Part 1 Crime, Senator John Glenn attached this bill to the Appropriation Bill which was signed into law by the President.

7) The growth and expansion of the IAAI took over a large portion of the Executive Secretary's home. Hence it was suggested and later approved that a permanent office location be established in Marlboro, Massachusetts.

At the time of my Presidency, the Presidential Suite was a king size bed in a motel. The cocktail party for the officers and directors was sponsored by personal funds. The Organization has grown to what it represents today with successful conferences being held throughout the United States along with three conferences held, two in Canada and one in New Zealand. We have come a long way!

I remember being succeeded by Jack Bennett, who is now deceased and during the Cherry Hill, New Jersey Meeting the President of the United States, Ronald Reagan, was shot. The Board drafted a get well letter and sent it to the President. Also during the meeting, two unusual events occurred, that most people remember, three false fire alarms. Most of us walked down from the top floors during these false alarms while a few took the elevator.

The most cherished memory for me, was being elected and entrusted by the membership as their twenty-fourth President of this great Organization.

Daniel B. Lemieux 1981-1982

I was elected President in Cherry Hill, New Jersey in 1981. You will recall that was the year we had three false fire alarms in the hotel. A big college basketball game was on at the same time and some of the high spirited young people must have thought it would be nice for the fire investigators to be reminded of their work. Someone turned on a fire hose and caused a great deal of water damage.

As to some of the good things that came out of that term, I believe it was the first year that all (except one) of the officers, past presidents and directors wore blue blazers and gray slacks. The officers and some of the board had been wearing this prior to the St. Louis Meeting, but I think it was the first year we organized it so that all wore the same thing.

I believe it was the first year that an effort was made to formally organize the opening ceremony and the annual meeting. I recall people making comments on how nice all of the board looked wearing similar dress.

During this term, the Membership Committee was re-named the International Membership Committee. I wrote to all members in other countries encouraging them to be more active and to form chapters. I also met with Ian Robinson of New Zealand who subsequently formed the first chapter outside of North America.

At the Annual Meeting in Cherry Hill, I met with Editor John Stuerwald and we agreed that he would change the format of the Fire and Arson Investigator. Up until that time we had been photostating articles sent in by various members, and printing them, as received. As a result the Fire and Arson Investigator had a number of

different articles printed on different machines making it appear less professional. During the year, the Fire and Arson Investigator began printing the entire magazine. It is much more professional today, but at least it was a start and a change from many years of doing it the old way.

I believe that during my term, the Photographic Committee began taking pictures of the officers and board at the annual meeting, to save time and to give uniformity to the pictures that eventually appeared in the Membership book.

Also during my term, the practice of hosting a cocktail reception each evening began. For the chapter presidents one night, the editors of the newsletters another night and the executive of the Missouri Chapter the third night. This was not carried on by other presidents, although I personally felt it was a good idea and gave a number of other people a chance to meet with the board.

I am very proud to have been only the third Canadian to be President of IAAI. I am also proud of the fact that I was responsible for forming the first Canadian Chapter of IAAI and also was Principal of the first IAAI Seminar to be held outside of the U.S.A. I am told we could have won an award for the best Opening Ceremony. We had over 30 International speakers on the program. The meeting was also a financial success.

Robert J. Doran 1983-1984

I was elected President of this Association in 1983 at the Annual Meeting held in Tucson Arizona. It was a humbling experience, having the honor of representing the 7,000 plus members of the IAAI in matters related to the suppression of arson and kindred crimes. During my term of office, with the cooperation of the board of directors several changes were made to facilitate the business of the Association. The fall board meeting was added to the schedule of the directors, it was put in place to accomplish three objectives:

- 1) To allow the President to meet and work with his board on matters beneficial to the membership.
- 2) Discuss and handle Association business in a more timely fashion, it was presently being done just once a year.
- 3) Allow the officers and board an opportunity to view the next Annual Meeting site and meet with the Chap-

ter members thereby showing support for their untiring efforts in hosting the Annual seminar and Meeting.

During my term of office the election process was revamped allowing a more democratic and efficient procedure to replace the cumbersome voting which was in place and used at the annual meeting. A Training and Educational Committee was put in place, particularly to revamp the Annual Seminar and insure the educational programs met the demands of our present day needs and standards. A memorial service was added to the program along with an Association Chaplain, the intent was to memorialize our departed members and provide spiritual guidance to the Association. The Association entered the world of computers thus reducing the cost of our directories as our executive secretary utilized the computer programs to modernize our office presently located in Marlboro Massachusetts. Further, I had the opportunity of being the first President to assist the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms as they entered the field of arson investigation. The Association was requested to send a representative to the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco, Georgia to help draft an *Arson for Profit* Course which would become available to state and local law enforcement personnel. Due to the very complex nature of our day-to-day business I added an attorney to the board of directors as an ex-officio member thus decisions made by the officers and board would be in compliance with legal standards. When my term of office ended I met with other past presidents and established the Past Presidents' Counsel with the intent being to be available for any and all duties as directed by the president of the Association and be able to provide guidance and counsel to officers and board when requested.

Thomas R. Brace 1986-1987

After I had completed my farewell address in Las Vegas in 1987, and the new president was installed, I found myself one of the last people to leave the banquet hall. I was feeling a little sad and a mixture of relief that a difficult transitional year was over. I was wearing my tuxedo, carrying some mementos of my presidency when in the hallway two couples approached me and thanked me for the job that I had done. My spirits were lifted; people I did not know recognized my accomplishments to the Organization. As rapidly as they were lifted, they were dashed when one of the gentlemen said, "your group has a great sound." I then realized

that they thought I was in a band that they had just heard and I was reminded of the old homily about how fleeting fame is.

John H. Primrose 1987-1988

The first highlight for me is the fact that, in 1987, I was the first IAAI Second Vice President elected to office at an Annual Meeting outside the U.S.A.

On Tuesday, April 14, 1987, following the International Conference in Las Vegas, we opened a new International office in Louisville, Kentucky with a new executive secretary who had less than sixty days (60) exposure to the office operation and a new secretary who had absolutely no exposure to the Association prior to starting her work. The new location, staff and executive officers created a real challenge for everyone.

All initial committee appointments were made, correspondence covering the chair, co-chair and committee appointments were mailed and for the first time in my recollection of the Association, every committee was given a specific and stated project. The committee appointments and committee projects were all completed and mailed to the Chair and Co-chair of each committee within the first forty (40) days of my Presidency.

Also in May, Sally and I traveled to Hong Kong on vacation, where direct contact was made with our membership there. To the best of my knowledge this is the first time the President of the IAAI has had the opportunity to make direct personal contact with any of our membership outside of North America.

In September, we initiated a new Association activity, the "President's Meeting." This meeting was held in the International Office with all three Presidents present.

We reviewed the committee activity; reviewed the condition and repair of all office equipment and furniture; reviewed the new CPA and bookkeeper; reviewed the operation of the new office and staff and we conducted staff employee reviews.

In November, the mid-year board of director meeting was held in Omaha, Nebraska. As per the Constitution and Bylaws and created by the death of Joe Wehner, as President, I appointed the next highest "vote-getter" in the election for the board of directors at our last Annual Conference, to fill that vacancy. Mr. John

Barracato of Connecticut was seated until the next Annual Meeting. Most of the first day was taken up dealing with an Ethical Practice and Grievance complaint filed against a current member of the board of directors. This is the first time to my knowledge that an E.P. and G. action has been brought against a current member of the board of directors. All but three committee mid-year reports were received, copied and bound for the board of directors review.

During late November and early December, Sally and I traveled to New Zealand and Australia for an official IAAI visit with the New Zealand and New South Wales Chapters. Numerous meetings with the chapter members, government officials, fire service, law enforcement, insurance industry representatives; numerous newspaper interviews, radio talk shows and TV coverage was accomplished during this trip. This is the first time a President of the Association has made an official visit to any of the chapters outside North America.

In January, checks were sent to each chapter for \$2/ member rebate for each International member. This action resulted from the dues increase that took effect for the 1987-88 year.

In March, Sally and I were group leaders for a group of forty-four (44) Association members and some spouses, on a technical exchange to the People's Republic of China, where we were hosted by the Ministry of Public Security. We conducted a technical exchange on fire and arson investigation with members of the Chinese fire service, law enforcement and forensic scientists in Beijing, Nanjing, Shanghai and Guangzhou, China. This was a tremendous opportunity to showcase the Association and some of its very skilled members to the people in Asia.

At the start of my Presidency, we had membership in twenty-eight (28) countries of the world. When I completed my term of office, our International membership had grown and we then had members in thirty-five (35) countries of the world. Truly an International Association.

At the Annual Meeting, all committees but one reported. They did a tremendous job during the committee year, and I commend them all.

There was also a commitment from various officers, members of the board of directors and some Association members, for \$1,800 towards a permanent office building.

It was truly an honor for me to have been provided the opportunity to serve the Association's membership as President.

I am sure there are highlights and certainly a lot more detail that was not included, but it certainly wasn't because of any intentional oversight.

Donald "Ben" Cypher 1988-1989

My term in office as President of the IAAI came at an exciting point in the history of the Association, as it was getting ready to mark forty years as a professional arson awareness and combating Association. The challenges in this work are great, and I was greatly in awe of the responsibility as I stepped up to "my turn at bat." But my many years of experience, both in the field and in the Association told me that the IAAI could be a powerful tool in the battle. My heart has always been in training and education for the investigator and others surrounding the fire investigation. I am proud of the establishment of a reorganized Training and Education Committee during my tenure in office. This committee is now designed and equipped to plan and execute the program for the Annual Seminar and Meeting held each year for the membership. Also the reorganized Training and Education Committee has instituted and carried out several regional seminars, taking the training expertise of the IAAI to Nova Scotia, New Zealand, and then to Alaska. It was my hope and dream as I left office for the training capabilities of the IAAI to continue to grow and expand as it offers the best in fire investigation education and training to the world. Thank you IAAI for the opportunity to serve you as President, 1988-89 and to put my ideas concerning training and education into practice.

David M. Smith 1989-1990

I believe that a President personally accomplishes nothing in this Organization, but rather accomplishments are made through that President's administration, true to the democratic process. I am extremely proud to say that many accomplishments occurred during my Presidency due to the dedication of the committees, board members and executive officers.

Dramatic changes took place to the *Fire and Arson Investigator* during my Presidency, thanks to the fine work performed by the editor and assistant editor. I

changed the printing of our periodical to a competitive bid basis, resulting in a different full-color cover being seen on each issue for less money than the original white cover. Equipment was purchased to improve the *Fire and Arson Investigator* to include a "fax" machine, scanner with software, as well as a laser printer.

It was my belief as President that the IAAI had to be visible to be taken seriously in its claim as the world's leading fire investigation training organization. That visibility is to include travel and training throughout the world and within the United States, as well as active participation in Washington, DC. I was honored to represent the IAAI, along with Past President Brace and Liaison Steve Austin, at the first and second Congressional Fire Services Institute dinners, as well as the National Arson Forums and Joint Council of Fire Service Organizations meetings.

Meetings were held with the National Fire Protection Association relative to the 1033 standard and the IAAI Certified Fire Investigator Program. An attempt was made for those two programs to become more closely aligned and Mr. Steve Austin, representing the IAAI, was appointed by the NFPA as Chair of the 1033 Standards Committee.

Many accomplishments were made by the Training and Education Committee due to their fine work, commitments and leadership. Soon after assuming the Presidency an outreach program was held in Juneau, Alaska, attended by IAAI members throughout that great state. A Kodak Photography School was held in Omaha, Nebraska with a second school scheduled. Our meetings with the National Fire Protection Association resulted in an IAAI/NFPA sponsored symposium scheduled for January of 1991 in Houston, Texas. Cooperation between the Insurance Advisory Committee and the Training and Education Committee resulted in the formation and scheduling of an Insurance Industry Seminar. An IAAI promotional program was developed, with that program available for loan on both slide and VHS video tape formats. A lap top computer and appropriate software was purchased, and that computer utilized for registration assistance in Dearborn, Michigan. Likewise, an electronic grading machine was purchased and utilized in the grading of tests taken at the Annual Seminar, as well as the election process.

One of my personal goals and objectives for this Organization was realized during my Presidency, resulting in the founding of the International Association of Arson Investigators Educational Foundation. Tax-free donations can now be made to the foundation toward the

goal of our permanent building and educational facilities, ensuring the future growth and viability of this organization.

Due to the commitment of my committees, Board and Officers, I believe that my goals of further bringing the IAAI from the status of a fraternity to the status of a professional educational business were realized and I appreciate the opportunity to have hopefully made a difference.

Jean-Claude Cloutier 1992-1993

My term as President was exciting in more ways than one. It had begun two years earlier when I was elected 2nd VP at the same time as Jack Ward was elected 1st VP and had the good fortune of working with President Jack Sneed who has since passed away. The Executives, with help from the Board, had embarked on a program that brought accountability to the membership to higher levels than before, which I continued to support.

We were without an Executive Director at the time I became President. Therefore, there was some urgency in hiring the right person and I reappointed the Executive Search committee for that purpose. In December 1992 their recommendation was received and following a teleconference Board meeting, an offer was extended to Benny King to begin employment on January 15, 1993, which he accepted.

The membership had also been asking the Board to review the question of a more suitable and accessible IAAI office location. The Permanent Site Committee I had appointed diligently went to work. After polling every Chapter and reviewing a large number of submissions they brought three locations for consideration.

Extensive discussions were held at the mid-term Board meeting, with some individual discussions going well into the night, and further Board discussions the next morning, the Board decided that the Headquarters of our Association would move to St. Louis, Missouri, on or prior to July 31, 1993.

The move was successfully accomplished early in 1993 at very little cost to the association, thanks to the generous help from the Missouri and Illinois chapters.

Thanks to the missionary work of Past President Ward, the IAAI received its first grant from the USFA. This

enabled us to set up an Arson Symposium that brought together the elite of Fire and Arson Investigation Practitioners in America.

I had the good fortune of attending all but one of the regional seminars held during my term, a practice begun the previous year.

I attended all but one of the Canadian and some of the U.S. Chapters' Annual General Meetings. To meet our Chapter Membership, see them at work, hear their concerns and answer their questions, is a recommendable experience.

We changed the format of the "Fire and Arson Investigator." Also, advertising began to contribute to the cost of printing this very valuable publication

Early in 1993, I had to undergo surgery for the successful removal of a cancerous prostate. Bob Whitmore, then 1st VP, took over my presidential duties for two months.

What I consider the frosting on the cake of my Presidency, is that in May 1993, I was able to preside over our first ever—Annual meeting held outside the North American continent, in Auckland, New Zealand. This annual meeting was a success thanks to the very hard work of the New Zealand chapter members who never doubted they could succeed.

I will always fondly remember my term of office, my years on the Board of Directors, the support I received from my wife, my staff at ICPB, the IAAI Board and committee members serving with me, as well as the many people I had the good fortune to meet. Most important of all, I am proud to still be an active member of the International Association of Arson Investigators.

Robert B. Whitmore 1993-1994

My term as President was an exciting year for me personally and a year of continuing change for the Association as we continue to prepare this Organization for entering the 21st century.

There were many accomplishments made by this Association during my term in office. Some of the highlights during my tenure were:

1) Prior to assuming the office of the President, the

first ever 1993-94 committee assignments and IAAI Business Plan was developed and distributed to all Officers, Directors, Past Presidents and Chapter Presidents outlining my committee goals and objectives along with a definitive business plan.

2) Developed the first monthly newsletter, *The President's Perspective*, that was published and circulated to all Officers, Directors, Past Presidents and Chapter Presidents. This was initiated to foster increased communication between the President and the members of this Association.

3) Became the first President to take the oath of office outside of North America. This was in conjunction with the first Annual Meeting and Seminar outside of North America.

4) The Arson Prevention Act of 1993 passed through both the House and Senate during that year.

5) Initiated and supported the construction of a reburnable training building to be constructed at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center for purposes of training fire investigators. The appropriations for the building were allocated within the Department of Treasury budget in 1994.

6) Membership reached the 8,000 mark for the first time in the history of the Association.

7) As a result of a symposium at Emmitsburg, Maryland, the IAAI/USFA published a "white paper" that was distributed to all members of the IAAI. This paper outlined federal arson policy and priority recommendations for the United States Fire Administration.

8) A delegation from the IAAI was invited by President Clinton to attend a ceremony on the south lawn of the White House commemorating the "Firefighters Bill of Rights." The IAAI endorsed and supported this legislation that culminated in the passage of the bill through Congress.

9) The President of this Association, for the first time, was seated at the head table during the Congressional Fire Services Institute Dinner in Washington, DC. We also now have a seat on the Steering Committee for the CFSI. The IAAI Educational Foundation received \$150,000.00 from this bill during my tenure in office.

Each year I am amazed at all of the wonderful people involved in this Association that continue to work for the common good of our profession. I think that Albert

Schweitzer may have summed it up best and I leave you with this thought, "There is no higher religion than human service. To work for the common good is the greatest creed."

Jack V. Yates 1995-1996

My Presidential year of May 1995 until April 1996 was a rewarding year in every respect. It however began on an ominous note with the most heinous terrorist act to ever occur on the North American continent. The Murrah Building bombing in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma occurred on April 19, 1995 and 168 lives were lost. I was present at the bomb site from the first day and for nearly two weeks after that. I was there professionally for the United States Fire Administration, a division of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, but during that time, I also served in whatever capacity I could for the IAAI. The reality of the matter was that there was little one could do other than pray for the victims and the rescue personnel who were performing far above the normal call of duty. The response from fire departments literally throughout the world was overwhelming. Never have I been more proud to represent the fire service as I was after this tragedy. Needless to say, this was a subject that was addressed many times during my term of office and I was pleased to do so, not only as President of the IAAI but as an Oklahomian.

Before this incident occurred, there had been much pre-planning that had gone into preparation for my year in office. The last several years had seen outgoing presidents give the incoming President the opportunity to set their committees. They also set their goals and objectives at that time for their year. Rarely were all goals met simply because time ran out. In an effort to try and see goals met, I asked the First Vice President if he would agree with me on the same committee members, goals and objectives and keep these in place for two years in order to see more completion in all areas. I am pleased to see that this is continuing to be carried out.

One of my goals was to see our *Fire & Arson Investigator* raised to the professional level I saw in other magazines. A search was made for an editor that had both creativity and skills that could take the magazine to the next level. Completing that search, the Executive and Board agreed on our present Editor, Pam Craig-White, and I continue to hear positive reports. I am most pleased to have seen this take place during my term.

Our presence in Washington, DC, continued and numerous trips were made through the year to see our position maintained. This was made in addition to the regional seminars which were rewarding in every sense.

Serving this Organization through the years on the Board and finally in an Executive capacity was without a doubt one of the greatest honors one could have bestowed on them. I was honored also as being the first IAAI President elected at the AGM ever held off the North American continent, in Auckland, New Zealand. Memories are too numerous to list and I thank everyone that made this a great year.

Alan L. Clark 1996-1997

1996/1997 turned out to be a very busy year for the IAAI. In June 1996, the mainstream media began reporting that southern black churches were being targeted by arsonist. In June, I had the opportunity to be a participant at a news conference on the steps of the U.S. Capitol building with Congressman Curt Weldon. This news conference was sent out via satellite by ABC News and other news services.

Shortly thereafter, the IAAI, along with the seven other major fire services organizations, began face-to-face talks with Federal Emergency Management Director James Lee Witt to help plan and execute a national response to the Church Arson Crisis.

A few weeks later I met with President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore, in the White House, concerning the national response to the church arson issue. I was part of the delegation who presented the President with a proclamation dealing with the government and private industry response to the crisis. Later Steve Austin, IAAI Government Affairs Director, attended a Rose Garden signing of federal legislation dealing with church arson.

The IAAI presented or sponsored over 40 church arson prevention seminars free of charge for church leaders throughout North America. Many of these programs were done in cooperation with members of Congress, in the members home districts and the participation of the congressional member. The IAAI, in cooperation with Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company, also produced and distributed a brochure entitled "*Arson Prevention for America's Churches and Synagogues.*" Later, the Federal Emergency Management Agency reprinted the brochure and nearly a half a million copies have been distributed.

Many IAAI members were interviewed on radio and television dealing with not only church arson but arson in general. As President, I was on public radio nationwide discussing arson and its impact on America.

In addition to the church arson issue, the IAAI signed a memorandum of understanding with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission in Washington, DC. This agreement solidified the working relationship of

the IAAI and the CPSC and allowed the IAAI to provide training for CPSC investigators.

The IAAI also entered into talks with the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers and a memorandum of understanding was later signed with the two associations working together to produce joint training seminars.

Letter from Pete Battle:

(Brendan P. Battle, retired manager for the National Board of Fire Underwriters, was a member since the Association's inception. He is listed in the membership listing dated May 27, 1949)

March 27, 1998

Dear Weldon –

It was nice hearing from you. I was aware, from occasional articles in the IAAI publication, that you still had an interest in the field of arson. Your letter brought home the fact that it was close to 50 years ago that we founded the IAAI at Purdue.

I was one of the National Board agents present when Prof. Lingo and Dick Steinmetz and a few others took active parts in getting the ball rolling. Frankly, I had little or nothing to do with its creation and can be of very little help in furnishing any info of interest.

I did make notes of what N.B.F.U. representatives were there at the time—first and foremost was A. Bruce Bielaski, the director of our Arson Dept. at the time. He was a program speaker on the first day, but didn't stay for the rest of the week. Then I jotted down the names of N.B.F.U. agents who attended that session. They were Bill Braun, Hale Watkins, Don Cook, Joe Germain, Henry Martin, George Koch, Lacy McKenzie, Bill Wells and Jim Hall, the "Gila Monster," one of the finest men I ever worked with.

The full group of attendees posed outdoors for a picture taking session—my copy of the picture is buried somewhere—not available.

I know very little or nothing of the politics that was going on at the time and never became involved afterwards. John Stuerwald and Bob May were our major contacts over the years. This information hasn't been very helpful, but it is nice that the 50 year mark made for an interchange of letters. Give my regards to any of the old-timers you may be in touch with.

*Sincere regards,
Pete Battle*

PS I can't understand why my handwriting has deteriorated so badly. I won't be 88 years old until this October—if.

It was nice to hear from you.

Pete

“An education isn’t how much you have committed to memory, or even how much you know. It’s being able to differentiate between what you do know and what you don’t. It’s knowing where to go to find out what you need to know; and it’s knowing how to use the information you get.”

—WILLIAM FEATHER

ANNUAL SEMINARS & GENERAL MEETINGS

Seminar Locations 1949-2001

1949-1964	Purdue University Lafayette, Indiana	1983	Tucson, Arizona
1965	Ann Arbor, Michigan	1984	Clearwater Beach, Florida
1966	College Park, Maryland	1985	Vancouver, BC, Canada
1967	Columbus, Ohio	1986	Atlanta, Georgia
1968	Virginia Beach, Virginia	1987	Las Vegas, Nevada
1969	Austin, Texas	1988	Buffalo, New York
1970	Norman, Oklahoma	1989	Clearwater Beach, Florida
1971	Portland, Oregon	1990	Dearborn, Michigan
1972	Cocoa Beach, Florida	1991	New Orleans, Louisiana
1973	Des Moines, Iowa	1992	Minneapolis, Minnesota
1974	Austin, Texas	1993	Auckland, New Zealand
1975	Lincoln, Nebraska	1994	Biloxi, Mississippi
1976	Indianapolis, Indiana	1995	Los Angeles, California
1977	Ann Arbor, Michigan	1996	St. Louis, Missouri
1978	Anaheim, California	1997	Toronto, Ontario, Canada
1979	Williamsburg, Virginia	1998	Portland, Oregon
1980	Austin, Texas	1999	Las Vegas, Nevada
1981	Cherry Hill, New Jersey	2000	Grand Rapids, Michigan
1982	St. Louis, Missouri	2001	Atlantic City, New Jersey

In 1987, the editor of the *Fire & Arson Investigator* ran an interview with Bob and Elaine May for the membership. As a tribute to the Mays, who had been at the helm of the IAAI Office for over 15 years, we would again like to share this interview. The interview took place at the May's New England home, where they recounted their fondest memories, experiences and predictions for the IAAI.

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE MAYS

(IAAI)
Tell us about your early experiences with the IAAI Office.

Bob:
We started in Park Forest, Illinois.

Elaine:
... a nice little part-time job, maybe 20 hours a week. And I said, "Okay."

Bob:
Right! We never forgot the first time we had to make the mass mailing to 1,080 members and we didn't have the machines to stick the stamps and envelopes . . .

Elaine:
Still, we addressed envelopes, we stuffed them, and we used sponges and stuck on little stamps for all of the mailings.

Bob:
Hand-stamped—all the way through. We used the kids, we used neighbors, we used my mom, your mother-in-law. Those were tough days.

Elaine:
Bob's mother would come to visit us. "How can I help?" She would stamp the envelopes first class, third class, whatever. She'd stuff the envelopes. At that point, she was 75 years old. She said, "I like office work so much, when I get to Florida, I'm going to get a job. I'm going back to doing clerical work."

Bob:
But she would stamp first class on the envelope or on the letter and if the stamp was not clear, she would then take up a very dark marking pen and she would very carefully write in and fill-in the "i" and the "r" and the "s." It had to be perfect.

Elaine:
Okay, that goes back to the "Ma and Pa" operation. Every morning I use to drive to the post office, the bank, deposit all of the checks, handle everything. Errands, typing, 1,089 people. As it grew, I had to make the decision, "Do I take another job or do we go with the Association?" So we went with the Association and it

grew and it grew. We had a lot to do with that.

Then as time went on I fought the idea of a computer, but David Icove came up and messed it all up for us. Icove said, "Just play with it, get comfortable with it." Now I couldn't live without it.

Bob:
We still curse him right now!

(IAAI)
What humorous moments do you remember running the office?

Elaine:
My funniest episode, we've had many state their qualifications for membership as, "that as Sheriff of this county, I'm responsible for all arson committed in this area."

Bob:
(Laughing) in my county?

Elaine:
We've sent out a dues notice, got the answer back "Give me a break. Do you know how much it costs for a divorce? You think I can afford the alimony, and pay 25 bucks dues? Come on now!"

The friendships that have developed through various people that have had little problems with their listing. They are funny. Take John Fitzgerald.

Bob:
Yeah.

Elaine:
He worked with me for seven years. John simply worked for me for seven years cause he wanted to be in the office, loved the Association, and wasn't looking for anything.

Bob:
Paid his own way, each and every year.

Elaine:
Once a member called. He was a little upset, and he said, "You misspelled my name!" I said let's look it up. "Ross," and he said,

“keep going,” and I said “Renith?” Somehow his first name is not Renith. He said Kenneth. I said, “I’m sorry. I’ll fix it right now!”

In Atlanta, he looked me up and he said “Elaine?” I said, “Hi,” and he said “Renith.” I said “Renith Ross?” We became the best of friends. He was funny. He came into that office at least five times a day. And when he left, he said, “I’m the new kid on the block, you made me feel so comfortable.” I said, “Well, Renith, how could I forget you.” He’s wonderful.

(IAAI)
What IAAI members stand out in your mind?

Bob:
There are other people going back, going back in time. One of the real old-timers, Dick Steinmetz. He is alive and well, I’ve heard from him very recently expressing a hell of a lot of concern about the future of the IAAI. I’ll say he’s in his late 70s, maybe 80. And he is a very, very intelligent person.

Elaine:
He used to be editor of the magazine.

Bob:
He was editor of the magazine and was past president. But those are the people that really make this Association. What we are today. Guys like Will Peterson in Ohio . . .

Elaine:
A past president.

Bob:
Bob Carter, Bill Rossiter . . .

Elaine:
He donated his collection of magazines.

Bob:
Everything we have in the office, Bill Rossiter gave us. All the history of the IAAI, that’s where it came from.

Charlie Wilson, with the Wilson scholarship fund. Never was an officer, only a director for many years, but he started something that will carry on for years.

Elaine:
Charlie said “don’t give out any donations for two years, put the \$1,000 in there, let it build up.” Then the members started contributing, now we give out three \$1,000 a year scholarships.

Bob:
And it’s funded by itself.

Elaine:
By the members.

Bob:
And, this year [1987] ironically we haven’t received in as much as we’re going to kick out. But we still have plenty of money there.

Elaine:
Weldon Carmichael with his student essay.

Bob:
Yeah. Weldon.

Elaine:
Difficult. He pays for the whole thing.

Bob:
Nobody contributes anything. Weldon does it all himself.

Elaine:
It’s very difficult for chapters to get high schools, or grammar schools to do the essays.

Bob:
You got guys like Gene Jewell, director for many years. J.W. Dunlop, director for many years. Bill Hood in Oregon.

Elaine:
He established a new award.

Bob:
And he continues to show up, continues to be active. It’s a shame I don’t have a book in front of me because I could go down the list. So many people that . . . where we are today, these are the guys who are responsible for it. Carmichael, very heavy. Very heavy.

In recent years, Bob Doran, Jim Gamm, . . . you look back over the years, fellas like Gene Jewell over the years with his dealing with the Ohio Chapter. The Ohio Arson seminar, which frankly was the finest seminar taught in the entire country. Will Peterson, Jack Ryan, and Sam Sides from Ohio—fantastic people.

The membership needs, frankly, they need about another 12 more Jerry Naylis’ sitting out in the audience.

Finally, there is no way in hell that the Association could have grown to the position that we’re in today without John Stuerwald. And John frankly has made this Association swing with that work on the *Fire & Arson Investigator* for many, many good years. . .

Without John, we would have had nothing. John is the reason that we continue to grow.

Elaine:
And last of all, Alice and Henry Kim.

Bob:
What can I say, other than they’re the greatest people in the world.

Elaine:
One year when we went to Hawaii we called Henry Kim at the Honolulu Fire Department. Henry said “I’ll have somebody pick you up.” When I got off the plane, I saw this tall, handsome, gorgeous person dressed in a white uniform and Bob said “what are you doing?” I said, “Are you Lt. Young?” and he said, “Yes, are there.

you Elaine May?" I said "Yes." That was our introduction to Honolulu.

Bob:

We, we hadn't met Henry yet at that point. We went ahead and went to our hotel.

(IAAI)

What do you think the major developments in the arson investigative field have been in the last 10 years?

Bob:

I would say arson task force operations. Number one. Number two, the

Elaine:

The newsletters . . .

Bob:

I would say obviously . . . yes, you're right! The increased effectiveness of the Chapter Newsletters.

Number three at the government level, I would say the Bureau of ATF, the concerted continuous effort of FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program for arson to do the job they've mandated to perform.

Next, I'd say that would be the insurance industry involvement in the immunity laws throughout the country. That would positively be a significant note.

(IAAI)

What do you predict to be the innovations of the future in the fire and arson investigation field?

Bob:

I would say increased training in fire causation, more attending being given to electrical causation, product liability, and investigation activity. Also, attention given to financial involvement and investigation as to property ownership, liability, rental, what have you.

I think positively increased computer usage on the tracking of fire locations and profiling arson prone property. I'd say the AIMS program is not being utilized to the degree that it should be at a municipal, county, and a statewide basis.

(IAAI)

What are your opinions on the federal financing of AIMS computer systems?

Bob:

The costs for AIMS computer systems should be absorbed by the local municipalities, counties, or states. Everything doesn't have to be financed by the U.S. Government.

The AIMS program positively should be used on a municipal, county, and statewide basis. And it's cost factors should be paid

for and adsorbed at the local level.

(IAAI)

What do you think of the proposal to have both a fall and spring meeting of the IAAI?

Bob:

I still strongly advocate that. I would recommend a permanent meeting every fall, late September or early October in Florida. Clearwater—a perfect example.

And that would be a permanent fall meeting, the annual meeting would then be rotated.

(IAAI)

To date, what has been the best annual seminar?

Bob:

I'd say Oklahoma City, Oklahoma [1970] at the University of Oklahoma. I'd say that was the best. That was the most fun. We lived in apartment complexes, we had Jim Smith on one side of us, Charlie Wilson on the other, and Sam Cobb was closest. We had a lot of fun. The board in those days was just very, very personal, very, very close. And that's why I'm going back ten years [1977]. That was the best. We don't have that existing today [1987], we don't have the personal relationship, the closeness, we don't have the comrade closeness that used to exist.

(IAAI)

What do you see as the future for the IAAI?

Bob:

I believe that great progress has been made during the past years and I see no reason for it not to continue. I look for the International to remain as the leader in the training and education of the fire/arson investigator.

On March 4, 1999, an updated telephone interview was made with Bob May. Over the past 12 years Bob and Elaine have enjoyed their retirement. Their involvement in the Association has been limited. It was important that we capture Bob's overall feeling of how the Association has grown, since his retirement, for this commemorative book.

(IAAI)

Do you feel the IAAI has met your expectations as far as growth over the years?

Bob:

Yes, they continue to grow and improve. They have expanded out of the limited areas in regards to educational progress, seminars, training and their affiliations with other organizations. The IAAI has also prospered greatly over the years. They have a good magazine, as a matter of fact, it is excellent.

[Thank you, Bob. We all hope you enjoy the 50th Anniversary commemorative book. You and Elaine have been major driving forces in the continued growth of this Association over the years.]

“Just as the wave cannot exist for itself, but is ever a part of the heaving surface of the ocean, so must I never live my life for itself, but always in the experience which is going on around me. It is an uncomfortable doctrine which the true ethics whisper into my ear. You are happy, they say; therefore you are called upon to give much.”

—ALBERT SCHWEITZER

MISSION STATEMENT CONCLUSION

The government of the Association is vested in the officers and directors who are elected by their peers and bound by the Constitution and Bylaws. This group of individuals are responsible for the normal business of the Association and now meets twice annually. It has become a very demanding and time consuming job, with daily problems, taking the leaders from both home and office.

Let us review the advancement over these many years. First, has the forefathers' mission statement been fulfilled?

1. To unite for mutual benefit those public officials and private persons engaged directly in the control of arson and kindred crimes.
2. To provide for the exchange of technical information and developments.
3. To cooperate with other law enforcement agencies and associations to further fire prevention and the suppression of crime.
4. To encourage high professional standards of conduct among fire investigators and to continually strive to eliminate all factors which interfere with the administration of justice and crime suppression.

The records show that we have been on the mark. We have fulfilled the vision of the forefathers and have taken it to the next level. The presidents over the years have each left their legacy, each one taking us to the next step, following those first steps in 1949.

The Association has become proactive in its leadership in fire investigation, education and the pursuit of legislation at local and federal levels, thus, aiding and assisting in the prosecution of individuals using fire and insurance fraud for their own ends.

We hope that in reading through this fifty year history of the IAAI and recalling the nostalgia of the past years, it will awaken a desire in every member, a desire to want to get involved in advancing the IAAI into the next millennium. We have become the primary force in the fight against arson and its related crimes, the educators of fire investigators, and instrumental in raising the standards of fire investigation through the *Certified Fire Investigators (CFI)* Program. We have also become active in the political world, responsible for the passage of legislation and proclamations concerning arson and related crimes.

You, the members, must keep alive the mission statements and memories of our forefathers and lead us into the future by continuously building upon and improving the IAAI's Goals and Objectives.

Take an active role:

- Participate in committees;
- Seek the opportunity to become a director and lead the organization in the twenty-first century;
- Promote the opportunities to expand the educational programs throughout the world;
- Maintain the leadership and high standards for which this Association has been respected over the past fifty years;

- Develop and hone the skills of those future members entering the IAAI by informing them of the benefits and comradeship that this great Organization offers.

We express our thanks for having the privilege of serving on the 50th Anniversary Committee and appreciate all those who have contributed to this commemorative book.

On March 16, 1999, as we go to print on this history of our Association, we have confirmed the purchase of a building by the “Educational Foundation of the International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc.,” in the St. Louis area.

This will give our Association a permanent building site for the first time in our history. This coincides with our celebration of the Association’s fiftieth anniversary in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The Association’s new addresses will be:

International Association of Arson Investigators
12770 Boenker Road
St. Louis, MO 63044

International Association of Arson Investigators Educational Foundation, Inc.
12772 Boenker Road
St. Louis, MO 63044

Robert Doran, Chair
Weldon Carmichael, Co-chair
Jean-Claude Cloutier
Ben Cypher
Dean Price
Peter Sloan
Pam Craig-White
Jack Yates



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