

Rebholz: Lifetime Achievement Award, April 12, 2013

When one loves the industry, the evidence remains (show carpenter suspenders & Tool Time tie).

I was very surprised and happy to be informed about this award; I'm just a simple grass roots guy.

The Bible warns about pride, but you have made some others proud--my dept at Bradley University sent one faculty and 3 students to see this (a special shout out to Kurtis, Kegan, and Terry & profs), it made my family very proud, it's a good thing when your spouse is proud of you.

A Lifetime Achievement award implicitly implies that it is given to some old geezer from the past that is going to sound like your parents talking about how the world is going to pot--and not the way you Californians interpret that!

You probably don't want to hear about the good old days, but here are some items that I think you will find interesting.

I'd like to tell you why I am proud of ASC and what it has become.

I had the privilege of holding every possible elected office, and a couple of appointed ones. I attended my 1st ASC Conference in 1970--how many of you were born after that date? DON'T ANSWER!

I met the pioneers of ASC: unless you are from that school, you probably don't recognize their names--men like Frank Orr of Clemson, Dorsey Moss of Purdue, Loys Johnson of Florida, Tom Jellinger of Iowa State, Ed Schaefer of Arizona State, Stubby Thorson of Kansas State, Thurman Potts of N E Louisiana State, Rip Radcliffe of Nebraska, men from Auburn & TAMU, I understand that Bill Brown of Cal Poly is still in the area, the man who hired me--Jim Guest of Bradley, etc.

They were strong, fiery people who fought the battles with their schools to get their programs created--that meant that they didn't necessarily get along with each other also! I saw some heated correspondence go back and forth.

They figured that they could trust someone from a Christian school--Chuck Willis of John Brown University to be treasurer and safe to handle their money.

They were kind enough that they elected as secretary, John White from an economically disadvantaged minority school, West VA State College, so that he could have some travel paid for his transportation to the meetings.

We now have peer reviewed scholarly papers--a highly respected source for publishing scholarly activity and giving insight into construction education.

Even at the Regional level--I sat in on ours and see that there are competitions and papers--very sophisticated compared to what we used to do with just a get together plus a tour.

In this era of open access journal, and if you are a member of CNBR--you see a plethora of invitations to submit to some very narrow, overly specialized, odd fields within the industry, even one that I see that asks that any papers from their journal that they think are good to be also submitted to their journal.

During my presidency in 1985 (how many of you were born later than that? again--don't answer) we initiated reviewed paper presentations--not my idea, that was the suggestion of my VP Jerry Rounds.

Prior to that we did have papers presented, but they were not peer reviewed and ranged from scholarly to even humorous--one that sticks in my mind was given by George Poe of Washington State. It dealt with how to get that nice weathered patina on copper roofs. It suggested that a nice uniform patina could be achieved by spraying elephant urine on the roof. Of course this led to quite an exposition on how to get an elephant on the roof!

Now, even the poster sessions that aren't quite ready for publication yet are good. I saw one that dealt with RFID use (library board value), another on familiarity of iPads that reminded me of one of my earlier papers.

I'm not intimidated by computers--my first programming course was in 1964, I use a Garmin, but believe in a division of duties & so my wife does the Facebook and Pinterest things. I'm a little bit "old school", I don't even like the idea of a smartphone so that I can get away from phone calls. When the guy in the stall of the rest room next to me is saying on his phone "oh, I'm not doing anything"--it's going too far--I use a basic iPad. I received a book on "computer architecture" when I started teaching since I was involved with both subjects, but quickly sent it to the EE Department. However, I do see some advantages to new technology--e.g. I sat on the plane next to Jason Lucas, a new faculty member from Clemson--coming in to LAX, we were delayed and it looked like we were going to miss our connection. Jason was able to pull up the information on our flight to San Luis Obispo and saw that it was also delayed so that we would even have enough time to hit the Rest Room before boarding that flight (guess what, someone in there was on their phone)! But I love the idea of mashing systems together like the speaker on "BIMStorm" yesterday morning that was presented. I sometimes had trouble getting a projector to show what I wanted, so when I heard this pioneering, sophisticated, computer usage expert saying "oops sorry" a few times during his presentation--I felt a lot better!

Some of the old reasons for coming to a conference like this are still the same as they used to be: you can meet new, interesting people (yesterday morning I had a delightful conversation with a young gal from AZ State who graduated in architecture, worked for a GC and is working on her PhD in construction, her interest in the paper that she is presenting and what her future plans are); you can learn new things & the latest buzz words and phrases (things like BIM on steroids, some things like that may have staying power or maybe not--words tend to change use, 25 years ago things were "cool", then it became "I'm bad", then everything was "sweet", I asked my teenage grandchildren out in VA what the latest thing was and they told me "ADORBS"--but I think we may have reverted back in the cycle to cool again).

Perhaps you wonder what that last paragraph of my bio in the booklet is about.

What the resolution prior to Nebraska was like...wherefore dept., meals, facilities, tours, papers, etc. & therefore...congratulations and thanks. At that meeting the President forgot to offer the traditional proclamation. As Secretary, I was to gather the committee minutes and other information copy them and send the document with the closing proclamation to all the schools. Thus, I wrote one up and since I knew no one really read it, included a couple of humorous zingers. However, someone did spot them, and I was appointed to do the proclamation for several years.

If we did one now, it would probably include things like WHEREFORE: gift of a purse capable of carrying home literature plus a stash of cookies/chocolates/beef jerky and carpenter pencils that glow in the dark, WHEREFORE: 50% of those attending had wine stains on their outfits (not including me as a tea totaling Baptist nor the entire faculty of BYU), WHEREFORE: playing a game of X and Y choosing that could have been named Chaos (just like construction) or called "Calvin ball", WHEREFORE: ultra-modern facilities of an architecturally designed structure of canvas (I haven't spent so much time in a tent since I was a platoon leader in VN).

I think in light of the tremendous advances that the Association has made since those early days, you should see who your leaders are--all officers, directors, and staff please stand up. We have already had chances to recognize those who have been working to organize this conference--and believe me, I know the effort since I did the same thing at Bradley over 15 years ago.

I always thought that these types of people should be recognized for the time that they put in. I never had a class applaud when I finished a lecture. I think these folks deserve a "standing O". On the count of 3...

They are why I'm so proud of ASC.