



the Alembic

Chair's Corner

As the year winds down we have a little more business before the new year. This month we'll be touring the State Crime Laboratory in Wausau. Steve Leiterman was able to arrange this tour for us and we should also enjoy a pleasant pre-tour dinner in a nice Wausau steakhouse.

Thanks to Steve for making these arrangements. He tells me they probably have new equipment in the Lab, not seen when some of us last visited there on a very stormy winter evening a number of years ago.

I have to apologize for the lateness of this newsletter. I've had some problems getting the material in a timely way to long-suffering editor Tom Zamis, to whom we owe a great debt of appreciation. I hope you have been enjoying the new format of the Alembic. It has really benefitted from Tom and his knowledge of desktop publishing which produced the new, snazzy, professional look.

I will be working on the 1998 Annual Report soon, and will then realize more vividly the activities and individual

contributions many of you have made to the Central Wisconsin Section this year. Hopefully by the time the next Alembic rolls around I will be better prepared to write an article naming names and enumerating some of your good works. In the meantime, thanks you all!!

The answers to my queries last month about the compound Borodin made and how he made it are: 1) The first organic fluorine compound was benzoyl fluoride 2) Borodin made it by the reaction of benzoyl chloride with silver fluoride. Thanks to David Lewis for sharing his expertise in this area of the history of chemistry (and music)!

We've had quite a number of interesting and entertaining programs and dinners this past year. If you haven't been able to participate please feel free to do so in the future. It is Your Society, and you will find it rewarding to attend and to support.

Do it!

Bob

ACS - CWS Mini-Directory

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American Chemical Society

Central Wisconsin Section



December Meeting

Tour of State of Wisconsin Crime Lab

7100 W. Stewart Ave.
Wausau, WI

* * * LOGISTICS * * *

When: Monday Evening, December 14, 1998; 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Whom: Call Steve Leiterman if you will attend or for further information
(715) 693-2111 extension 329

National Chemistry Week in Eau Claire - 1998

by Bob St. Louis

Our Chem Demo Day was held at the bandstand of the Cafe Court of Oakwood Mall in Eau Claire, from 10:30am to 2:30pm. This is Eau Claire's biggest mall, and a good crowd was present at all times. A total of 28 workers, mostly from North High School and the UWEC Chemistry Department, helped put on our event throughout the day. The North students were organized by teacher Chris Lange. Helium for balloons and miscellaneous demos were provided by the UWEC Chem Dept. The demos that were put on included magic markers from ACS, salt crystals viewed with a hand microscope, Mizzi the magnetic cat and her ball, electrolysis of water, nylon rope trick, making "slime", liquid nitrogen used to make banana hammer, $\text{NaHCO}_3 + \text{CaCl}_2 + \text{phenol red solution}$ in a bag, ink chromatography on filter papers, making "gold" pennies, making lip gloss, Meissner effect in superconductivity, and free helium balloons. These demos were set up on five large tables provided by the mall at nominal cost. Publicity before the event included a notice in the newspaper and notification of schools. Publicity after the event included a news report on Channel 18, and a nice big picture in the Sunday paper of a young spectator heating a $\text{Zn} + \text{NaOH}$ pretreated penny in a flame to make its surface look like gold. It was tiring but fun. We missed Al Denio's organizing abilities this time, but did profit from Judy Lund's help and advice. Thanks to everyone for making this a success!!

National Chemistry Week Report

by Ilona Lin

Preparations for National Chemistry Week started in October with searches for information and the ordering of handouts and demonstration materials. ACS provided 1,200 copies of the magazine "Chem Matters" (upon contacting Chemistry teachers in the local high schools, I was pleased to learn that most schools have the magazine in their libraries.) Following up on the teacher's requests, 1,500 copies were distributed in Marathon, Lincoln and Portage counties. (the extra copies were obtained from UW-EC).

The following events took place in central Wisconsin:

Marv Lang, Don Showalter, and Gary Shulfer performed their well-known Demo Show November 6 at UW-SP. It was open to the public as well as our Section members (this served as our November meeting.) This excellent demonstration show attracted students at all levels, families with small children, and many other chemistry fans. The demonstrations consist of color, light, and fire effects with audience participation and humor.

Marshfield Senior High had a weeklong event organized by the chemistry department's Sue Harrington:

Monday: Chemistry Teachers wear National Chemistry Week T-shirts

Tuesday: All chemistry students wear tie-dyed T-shirts

Wednesday: Discussion of Chemistry in everyday life

Thursday: AP students receive NCW pins

Friday: Distribute and discuss Chem Matters magazines

Stevens Point Area Senior High's chemistry club with teacher Tim Corcoran organized chemistry demonstrations in Stevens Point..

Wausau: ACS members organized chemistry demonstrations consisting of hands-on experiments about basic chemistry concepts like pH, polymerization, density, and dispersion. Demos included the following:

1. Secret writing - phenolphthalein solution used as invisible ink
 2. Silly Putty
 3. Slime
 4. Lignin applied to clay slurries
 5. Floating and sinking wood chips and coke
- The Wausau event was advertised by radio and newspaper.

At every event balloons, pencils, periodic tables, and written and oral information were made available to visitors. NCW was well received in our area, and the events were sponsored by universities and private companies. We had some plans in Wausau which never materialized, like having a coloring contest, or exhibiting local chemical company's products in downtown Wausau. I enjoyed organizing this event, and would like to express my gratitude to Judy Lund, who sent me piles of information and material about demonstrations, and supported me during this process.

Councilor's Report
216th National ACS Meeting
Boston, Mass.

C. M. Lang
UW-Stevens Point

The Boston meeting of the ACS was held late in August and I attended the meeting as your Councilor. Papers, poster sessions and a host of meeting rooms were spread out in at least 5 major hotels plus the Convention Center. All told, there were 15,647 registrants, exhibitors and single-day attendees at this meeting. There were 468 exhibitors who paid for 438 booths. Nearly 5000 papers presented over the 3-1/2 days of this meeting. As Councilor from the Central Wisconsin Section, I represented the local membership at the Council meeting of August 26, 1998. Further, I continue to serve on the Council Committee on Constitution & Bylaws which meets all day Saturday before the meeting and has a session immediately following the close of the Wednesday Council meeting.

The actions and decisions of the Boston Council meeting have already been highlighted in *Chemical and Engineering News* (C&EN September 14, 1998, p.60-61). Let me take a few moments to share some "random thoughts and miscellaneous items" which I recorded during that meeting; you might find them interesting:

The year 1999 will mark several important events. It will be the 70th Anniversary of *The Raman Effect* and celebrations are being planned by both the ACS and various Indian technical societies. Further, a *Global Salute to Polymers* is planned for 1999. Regarding anniversaries, the ACS will be 125 years old in 2001 and the Board of Directors is already planning an event to mark this rather auspicious occasion.

The Council Committee on Local Section Activities is charged with keeping the six regions of the Society with approximately one-sixth of the national membership. Shifts in membership from one region to another are common. Right now, there are 137,741 members spread out over the six regions (Central Wisconsin is in Region V). This means that the average membership is 22,957 which can vary by 10% according to the Constitution and Bylaws. Regions I, IV and VI are essentially outside the allowable limits. Redistricting of the local sections is the obvious solution. However, this is always an emotional issue for local sections located on the borders between neighboring Regions. The Regions are used to elect regional members of the Board of Directors, they have close association with "Regional Meeting" interest groups, and are linked to the Tour Speaker Service. I'm pleased to report that the Central Wisconsin Section will not be affected by any of the proposed redistricting proposals which have surfaced to date. However, Council's time and committees will spend lots of effort dealing with this rather sensitive issue.

A new division of the American Chemical Society was proposed: *Division of Toxicology*. It was voted that this Division be given probationary status effective January 1, 1999.

Job opportunities for chemists and chemical engineers is apparently improving despite increasing unemployment numbers as reported by various governmental agencies. At Boston, the National Employment Clearing House posted 1165 potential and permanent (888) positions with 1637 candidates experiencing about 3000 interviews. Further, it was reported that role of the "part-time" chemist and chemical technician improved in 1998.

As noted, the Boston meeting had several noteworthy announcements. Also, as part of the 75th Anniversary of *C&EN*, a reception was held in honor of 27 noted chemical scientist who were in attendance. Each was recognized by an "ACS Medal of Achievement." A great friend of CWS, Alfred Bader was one so honored as was Glen Seaborg. Speaking of recognition, I hope you all know that CWS was given a *Phoenix Award* for its involvement in the 1997 National Chemistry Week activities. Look on page 45 of *C&EN* (September 7, 1998) and you'll see our former Chief NCW'er receiving the award from Ed Wasserman, ACS President-Elect. As most of you know, Al Denio is now retired from UW-EC and lives in Delaware. "Thanks Al, for all the time and effort you invested in CWS; it has paid off and will be remembered!"

Finally, let me once again thank you for selecting me to represent the Central Wisconsin Section as your Councilor. It is a pleasure and challenge which I relish and enjoy.