LONDON: iaWCC’s 59th Convention

Whether in London—or anywhere else in the world—the iaWCC contractor can prove himself a standout.

At the iaWCC’s 59th Annual Convention and Exposition in London, England, the iaWCC contractors brought along versions of the way they do business.

For the British, European, and other national contractors who came to London (including two from South Africa, 19 from Japan, and 7 from Australia) to take part in the first truly international meeting in history for the wall and ceiling industry, the trek was well worth it.

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Two outstanding iaWCC members, both former presidents of the association, were singularly honored at the iaWCC’s London convention.

The coveted Venzie Award—the highest honor that the iaWCC can bestow—was presented to Thomas J. McGlone, president of iaWCC in 1970, and head of the Thomas J. McGlone & Company, Inc., Rahway, N.J.

Tom was on hand in London and accepted the award during ceremonies conducted during the annual banquet, climax of the convention. He spoke briefly, thanking his fellow iaWCC members for the honor which was given to him for his service, loyalty and devotion to iaWCC and to the wall and ceiling industry.

Also selected for a special honor was John W. Thomson, Jr., president of iaWCC in 1962 and chairman of the association’s convention committee ever since that year. He was named — a surprise honor — as President Emeritus, only the second time in the six-decade history of the iaWCC that such an honor has been given.

The only other holder of the President Emeritus citing was the late Edmond F. Venzie, after whom the Venzie Award is named. Venzie, who served as iaWCC president (then the CPLIA) from 1946 to 1953, received the honor in 1955.

John, principal of the John W. Thomson and Son, of Miami, was seated at the head banquet table when the surprise announcement was made.

Throughout the convention, Past President E. M. “Bus” Ratliff made a number of awards for “Outstanding” contributions to the association and industry. Award recipients included:

Unsung Hero Award—C. J. Coakley, of Merrifield, Va.

Outstanding Industry Employee—Vernon Noble, iaWCC technical consultant, of Arcadia, Mich.

Outstanding Committee Chairmen—James E. Biddle, of Rochester, N.Y., and Donald S. Little, of Don Mills, Ontario, Canada.

Outstanding Regional Chairman—Joseph A. Feldner, of Chicago, Ill.

Outstanding Associate Member—Essick Manufacturing Company, of Marion, Ohio.

At the annual banquet, the final night, E. F. Brady, of San Diego, won the annual drawing for the Essick mixer. Winners in the pre-registration drawing for the 1977 New Orleans convention were: Richard Duggan, of Allentown, Pa., free hotel room; Del Hirzel, of California’s Glover Manufacturing Company, free registration; and Bob Heimerl, California, free room and free registration. At the annual meeting, Reginald Atkin, Cardiff, Wales, was elected an Honorary International Board Member-at-Large for life.


CONVENTION:
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While hundreds of iaWCC members, their wives, guests, and manufacturers, suppliers, and industry friends absorbed what information they could, they also demonstrated rather conclusively that “name the service and chances are that someone in iaWCC—if not everyone in the association—is in that business.”

What surprised most foreign contractors, most of whom specialize in one craft or service line, was the wide-ranging involvement that iaWCC contractors offer to their customers.

Attendance at the 59th Convention, held at the famed Grosvenor House Hotel in London’s Hyde Park area, may not have equaled previous convention attendance, attributable perhaps to the world business situation, distance, and reluctance to venture to another country, but for the hundreds of industry people who did attend, the historical level of quality of an iaWCC convention did not lessen a single iota.

Information Give and Take

In addition to the fascination of talking with iaWCC contractors, who, likely as not, were involved not only in acoustics, drywall, and lathing and plastering, but also in floors, exteriors, demountable partitions, fireproofing, and a host of other construction applications as well, the convention produced the informational give and take that an international convention was expected to offer.

“We would have hoped that the iaWCC convention would have represented a stronger international pull,” said iaWCC Executive Vice President Joe M. Baker, Jr., “but an iaWCC convention has never failed to achieve its primary
goal—quality. And, in that, all contractors, foreign as well as American, were unanimous.

“It was a convention well worth attending.”

That it would be a good convention was evident from the moment the first North American contingents began arriving. And for the next six days, the business, educational, and social activities sustained the reputation of an iaWCC convention.

In some unique programming, mornings were filled with business and educational sessions, exhibit hours were observed at noon and in the evenings, and the afternoons were free for convention-goers to roam and review the City of London and its environs.

Well over 15 hours were devoted to the exposition which, although smaller than usual, was still the largest this year for any industry association, and which boasted ten new exhibits by United Kingdom and European manufacturers seeking an entry for their products into the American market.

When it was finished, many contractors and their families left for extended visits to various parts of Europe.

During the convention, assistance was provided to iaWCC by members and officials of four counterpart associations, the National Federation of Plastering Contractors, the London Master Plasterers, the Drylining and Partitions Association, and the Metal Fixing (Ceilings) Association.

Convention Begins

The Bicentennial theme was struck immediately at the opening session of the Convention, held Saturday, March 20th. Following introductions of the iaWCC and British Association officials, British TV performer Arthur

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Richards gave a humorous and fact-filled presentation, comparing the 2000-year history of London with the 200-year history of the United States.

It was a touch of British pageantry at its best as Richards was escorted to and from the stage by two of the famous Beefeater guards.

Next, the keynote speech, “The Collapse of Time,” was given by Joe L. Powell, former management specialist in the U.S. Department of Defense. Rather than repeat his standard “Collapse of Time” talk, Powell had it specifically tailored to the wall and ceiling industry with a special portion included warning those present of the impending “haves vs. have-nots” in an overpopulated world in which famine would be the ruler.

Other events during the first day included a Ladies’ Get-Acquainted party, a special luncheon sponsored by the National Federation of Plastering Contractors’ executive board in honor of the iA/WCC Executive Committee and their wives; and that evening the President’s Reception was held in the magnificent Plasterers’ Hall with iA/WCC President Al Ricca and his lady, Marleine, as hosts.

On Sunday, the exposition was opened in the evening. That morning had seen a special Fellowship Service and the rest of the day had been devoted to all-day tours.

Monday’s schedule saw a presentation on the spirit of free enterprise when John Regan, Vice President, Milcor Division, INRYCO, Inc., warned the assemblage that it was time for the capitalist system to hold its head up and to tell the world that “Profit is not a four-letter word”. Regan’s stirring talk was emphasized by a motion picture film of “Marketing the Free Enterprise System.”

Regan was followed by Thomas F. Murphy, President of the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Trades who endorsed the concept of profit and capitalism and told his audience that it is his union’s policy to give contractors a
OSHA CASE ACCEPTED BY SUPREME COURT

The final test on the question of the constitutionality of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration has arrived.

In the first public disclosure of passing the final barrier, McNeill Stokes, iaWCC General Counsel, announced at iaWCC’s 59th convention, that a trans-Atlantic telephone call informed him that his challenge to OSHA has been accepted by the United States Supreme Court for consideration.

The acceptance climaxes a long, bitter struggle by the Atlanta attorney who has, from the beginning, contended that OSHA’s enforcement procedures deny due process of law and the right to trial by jury-and is therefore unconstitutional.

Mac’s announcement at one of the general sessions brought a burst of enthusiastic applause from the assembled contractors.

CONVENTION:

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fair day’s work for a fair day’s pay.

Monday’s session was concluded with a panel comparing British and American construction techniques. Here, U.S. iaWCC member James C. Brunemann of Cincinnati and Thomas J. McCartney of Nashua, New Hampshire, compared the American system with the British method of doing work.

There was an outstanding seminar on the use of lasers in wall and ceiling construction featured on the Tuesday program. Here Jack Wolf and Jack Lanning, of Laser Alignment, and Bob Carless, of Spectra Physics, along with contractors Jim Biddle, Rochester, N.Y., and Bob Whittle, of St. Louis, handled the presentation to the iaWCC audience.

Tuesday evening the iaWCC Reserve Officers’ Club’s annual dinner was held at Plaisterers’ Hall with Chairman and Mrs. Thomas S. Thomsen officiating . . . Master (Continued on Page 14)

May, 1976
Vito J. Arseña, President of the Acme-Arsena Company, Cleveland, Ohio, was elected to the post of President of the international association of Wall and Ceiling Contractors. If the pending consolidation with the Gypsum Drywall Contractors International is given final approval by the iaWCC membership in a current letter ballot, Arseña and an iaWCC/GDCI slate of officers will take office on the 2nd of July. Should the consolidation fail, the duly elected iaWCC slate will begin its duties on the 1st of July. (See details in accompanying article.)

Arsena succeeds Al J. Ricca of the Service Art Company, St. Clair Shores, Michigan. Ricca will remain on the Executive Committee in the capacity of Immediate Past President.

Others elected to the Executive Committee of iaWCC include: Donald J. Chambers, Mansfield, Ohio, as First Vice President; E. F. Brady of San Diego, Second Vice President; Richard M. Connor, Nashua, New Hampshire, Treasurer; and Robert F. Watkins, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, the association’s new Secretary.

### Three Year Terms

At the same meeting, a number of new members were chosen to serve three-year terms beginning in July. They include: Burton Fisher, Troy, New York, for the Northeast Conference; Joseph A. Feldner, Chicago, and Steve Garrett, Indianapolis, representing the Great Lakes Conference; Ora Blaw, Annapolis, Maryland, and John Macioce, Pittsburgh, for the Mid-Atlantic Conference; James C. Rutherford, Los Angeles, Western Conference; and Board Member-at-Large James E. Biddle of Rochester, New York.

Because of the pending consolidation with GDCI, a second slate of officers was also named, to become effective rather than the first slate should iaWCC’s members give their OK in the letter ballot. These were: President, Vito J. Arseña; First Vice President, Chambers and Robert C. Mitchell of Denver; Second Vice President, Brady and Jack Craig of Honolulu; Treasurer, Connor; and Secretary, Watkins. Both Ricca and T. J. Vogle of Tulsa would serve on the Executive Committee as Immediate Past Presidents.

### CONVENTION:

*(Continued)*

of Ceremonies was Mr. Povl Westphall, editor of one of Denmark’s most respected newspapers, and guest speaker was the Lord Mayor of Copenhagen, Hon. Urban Hansen. Mrs. Hansen and Mrs. Westphall were also guests of the VIP group, made up of all former members of the iaWCC Board of Directors.

Wednesday’s program featured a special session in the exhibit hall for European and other non-North American visitors, including the 19 Japanese contractors. In the business session, Lawrence-Leiter and Company’s Mike Melcher handled a seminar on Business Continuation in Family-Owned Firms and was followed by McNeill Stokes, iaWCC’s general counsel. Stokes talked on Goal-Setting and Productivity and was followed by Maxie Quarterman, the British hodcarrier whose extraordinary work efforts have attracted international attention. Quarterman’s appearance, by the way, brought representatives of every London newspaper and the Australian Broadcasting Company to that session. iaWCC’s convention was consequently featured in every London newspaper the next day.

The iaWCC annual business meeting was conducted on Thursday following an outstanding program on integrated ceilings by members of the British Metal Fixing Association, coordinated by iaWCC member company Merchants Trading Company (METCO) and its Sales Director, John Oakenfold.

A special presentation on Thursday was made on Middle East contracting by John W. Bruce of Los Angeles. Mr. Bruce, a management consultant, was passing through London enroute to Kuwait where he is handling a management construction contract for an American firm with that country’s government.

That day a special joint luncheon meeting of the Boards of Directors of iaWCC and the British wall and ceiling associations was another highlight of the day. At this luncheon, American labor leaders Jack Cox, Vice President of the Brotherhood of Painters and John (Whitey) Rogers, Executive Board Member of the Brotherhood of Carpenters, outlined the cooperation between American/Canadian management goals and the goals of labor. Both advised their English listeners that American construction unions strongly support the profit incentive.

### Board Meeting

Thursday afternoon was devoted to the iaWCC Board of Directors meeting and the 1976 Convention was climaxed that evening with the annual dinner dance. A special program that evening included a surprise march-in by Her Majesty’s Welsh Guards who entertained a thrilled audience for over 30 minutes.

In addition to the presentation to Al Ricca of his Past President’s medallion, John W. Thomson was named President Emeritus of the iaWCC and INRYCO sponsored a huge special 200th Anniversary birthday cake to celebrate America’s independence.
Unanimous approval was given by the 59th Annual Convention of iaWCC to a resolution proclaiming Cardiff, Wales, member Reginald A. Atkin an honorary Lifetime International Board Member-at-Large for iaWCC. Atkin had served as Co-Chairman of the 1976 Convention Committee and has been a member of iaWCC for over two decades, attending every convention since 1955.

A second resolution, also given a unanimous vote, urges iaWCC to join with other associations in an effort to reduce the amount of time required by the National Labor Relations Board to consider and conclude specific cases brought before it. Joe M. Baker, executive Vice President of iaWCC, has already personally communicated this resolution to Mrs. Betty S. Murphy, Chairman of the NLRB, who has in turn sent it to a blue-ribbon committee of lawyers working on the problem.

Minority Subcontractors

Joining with the American Subcontractors Association in a fight against governmental regulations and directives forcing minority subcontractors into public work, another resolution asked for elimination of such governmental directives which would require contractors to negotiate with minority enterprises as a condition for bidding public work.

Said Larry Reger, Buffalo, a member of the Resolutions Committee, “Efforts along these lines have long been needed,” and Thomas J. McGlone, Rahway, New Jersey, author of the resolution, noted that the resolution was not anti-minority but was intended to bring about equality in bidding public work.

As noted elsewhere in this issue, the resolution endorsing the concept of consolidation with GDCI also got a unanimous vote. This motion did not conclude the consolidation with GDCI in view of the requirement for the letter ballot, but it did give the membership at the Convention an opportunity for debate and a first-hand knowledge of the Plan for Consolidation. In the voting, the convention attendees extended their endorsement to the pending bylaws changes, but since a 30-day notice had not been sent to the members prior to the convention, the letter ballot was required to effectuate these changes.

The only resolution drawing any fire was one calling for an endorsement of merger with the Concrete Pumping Contractors Association. After it had been read, the maker of the resolution, Robert L. Maidt Oklahoma City, moved to have it amended to change the request for merger talks to one of “solicitation” of these contractors to join iaWCC.

The Resolutions Committee had recommended “non-concurrence” on the resolution, but this was defeated by a voice and standing vote. On the resolution itself, a motion to table was also defeated and the resolution carried by a majority, but split vote.

Following the member meeting, the iaWCC Board of Directors discussed this resolution at length and voted unanimously to refer it to the iaWCC Executive Committee for “clarification” and “implementation”.
iaWCC/GDCI Consolidation
Becomes Effective July 2, 1976

Pending approval from the full iaWCC membership, there will be a new wall and ceiling association next July that is without a doubt the largest and most influential organization in the history of the industry.

It will be the international association of Wall and Ceiling Contractors/Gypsum Drywall Contractors International (iaWCC/GDCI), of Washington, D.C. Preliminary approval for the long sought after consolidation was obtained early in March at the GDCI annual convention in San Diego, and then this was followed quickly thereafter by iaWCC’s unanimous approval in London later in the month.

If approved by the iaWCC membership in a letter ballot, the new organization will become effective July 2, 1976, and will operate under the agreed-upon name for a period of three years.

Under the Plan for Consolidation, the new association will be managed by the iaWCC staff with Joe M. Baker, Jr., as Executive Vice President.

At the end of the three-year period as iaWCC/GDCI, the Board of Directors will vote on all points involved in the consolidation and will continue or alter the name as well as other temporary arrangements.

The plan also involves the concept of co-officers for the three-year period, and the magazine, Construction Dimensions, shall continue to serve the consolidated associations, adding the wording “Incorporating the Drywall Magazine” to its masthead, while identifying the inclusion of GDCI also on the cover.

GDCI will name 11 directors to the Board, one from each of the 8 regional conferences and three at-large, in addition to the 19 already serving as representing the iaWCC. The GDCI directors will serve for 3 years.

Past Presidents of both associations will be recognized equally, and there will be no proxy voting. The present headquarters of the iaWCC will be utilized by the consolidated association. Chartered chapters of the consolidated organization will require that all members also hold membership in the new association, but members of a local association not affiliated as a chartered chapter may become individual members.

The incoming iaWCC President will make committee selections with recommendations from responsible parties of both associations forming the consolidation, and during the three-year period the Nominating Committee will be comprised of three Past Presidents from iaWCC and two from GDCI.

Finally, the convention sites for 1977, 1978, and 1979 shall be in the cities of New Orleans, San Francisco, and Atlanta, respectively, in the last week of February and at the Hyatt-Regency Hotel of each city.
SPECIAL MEETINGS HELD DURING CONVENTION

A good number of iaWCC’s active committees held meetings during the convention, some of them meeting two or three times to conduct their business.

Largest meeting of the groups was that of the iaWCC Technical Committee whose special Subcommittee No. 4 on Fireproofing broke off from the parent meeting to hold an all-day session on Saturday.

The iaWCC Membership Committee met with GDCI President T. J. Vogle to discuss membership promotion based on the consideration that the consolidation will pass.

In its meeting, iaWCC’s Publications Editorial Board established its budget for next year, and made preliminary plans for CONSTRUCTION DIMENSIONS to incorporate the services of DRYWALL Magazine, the GDCI publication.

The Continuing Study Council met twice, once to review its past actions and recommendations and the second time to elect Ray Boyd, Garland, Texas, as Chairman to fill the position being vacated as the result of the election of Robert F. Watkins, Ft. Lauderdale, as Secretary of iaWCC. The CSC also named E. M. Ratliff, John Macioce, Reginald Atkin, and James E. Biddle to serve on that body and these appointments were later confirmed by the Board of Directors.

CSC’s incoming chairman, Ray Boyd, announced that the next major meeting of CSC would be in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, West Africa, in January.

The Trustees of the new Wall and Ceiling/Political Action Committee held a morning meeting to discuss building the political action fund and to determine the process to be used by that new organization in selecting candidates to receive donations.

Other meetings included a caucus of the iaWCC Western Conference. This group selected James C. Rutherford to serve a three-year term on the iaWCC Board of Directors and elected Robert Heimerl of Los Angeles as its chairman for the coming year.

Meetings of the Labor Liaison Committee, and Manufacturers’ Liaison Committee both had excellent attendance in spite of the call of the London shops and other outside attractions. The Manufacturers’ Committee reported to the Board its complete agenda for the coming meeting this fall.

The iaWCC Board of Directors met on Friday the 19th, giving over three hours to debate of the consolidation plan. At this meeting, T. J. Vogle, Tulsa contractor and President of GDCI, presented to the Board the plan for consolidation with iaWCC and urged its acceptance.

Mr. Vogle answered all questions put to him by the iaWCC members and then left the meeting so that debate could proceed.

The Board also approved three budgets for 1976-77: One in the event there is no consolidation, and two more, one with 75 new members and the second with 150 new members.