Bigger, Better Than Ever—

It keeps getting bigger. — and —

It keeps getting better.

That, basically, sums up the experience of some 1,300 people who participated in iaWCC/GDCI’s 61st Annual Convention.

The annual convention and exposition, held February 25 to March 1 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, in San Francisco, kept cracking one record after another in what certainly had to be the biggest all-industry extravaganza in wall and ceiling history.

With registrations well past the 1,200 mark, it had the highest attendance of any previous wall and ceiling industry convention.

At some 87 exhibits booths, no convention in the past had ever attained such manufacturer and supplier support.

A total of 23 workshops made it the most extensive educational program ever scheduled by the association.

Add all that to the smashing general sessions and special events and you have the specifications for a truly outstanding convention.

“We knew—from the enthusiastic response last year in New Orleans—that we would have a great convention,” explained iaWCC/GDCI Executive Vice President Joe M. Baker, Jr., “and nothing detracted from that expectation.

“Our intent has been to make this association’s annual convention the showpiece and magnet for the entire wall and ceiling industry—and in that objective we all feel that we have achieved our goal.”

Starting with a jampacked series of parties for first
iaWCC/GDCI’s 61st Convention

“... the discussions continue ...”

“Senator Orrin Hatch gets ready ...”

“... to address a jampacked session ...”

time convention goers and association members, the 1978 event moved onto a general opening session that earned keynote speaker, Sen. Orrin Hatch, of Utah, a standing ovation.

The “black and white” balloon studded Presidents’ Reception honoring co-presidents Don Chambers and Bob Mitchell and their wives, Jean and Betty, was a smashing success, as was the official opening of the ladies hospitality room which played to heavy crowds throughout the convention.

Sunday saw a relaxed day of sight seeing and exhibit hall visits, while Monday’s programming sent convention attendees to a series of break-out seminars, the continuation of the “Building Together” theme which dominated the convention.

Not only did the Reserve Officers Dinners in the evening prove a success, but the unique Johnny Carson TV Show that featured the final general session on Tuesday proved to be an innovative way of presenting an interesting, informative session while combining an annual business session too.

Highlight of the Tuesday general session was an appearance by Betty S. Murphy, former chairman of the National Labor Relations Board who still serves on the NLRB. The annual banquet, of course, wrapped up the formal program and nearly 1,000 contractors, their wives, guests, and special industry friends were still on hand for the wrap-up.

Besides the customary convention planning, the convention included a special educational program for wall and ceiling industry association executives as well as a young executives’ program.
J. Munroe McNulty, President of McNulty Brothers Company, of Chicago, and former President of iaWCC, was named the 1978 recipient of the highest award that can be bestowed on a wall and ceiling contractor—the coveted Venzie Award.

The award is named after the late Edmond F. Venzie who served as iaWCC president (then the CPLIA) from 1946 to 1953.

Also honored for his industry contributions was Donald Reysa, of General Portland, Inc., of Dallas, Texas. Don, who is manager of special products and marketing for the company, served for many years on various association industry and was active in promoting the industry about special interests.

C. S. “Charlie” Strawn, retired manager of the Texas Lathing and Plastering Contractors’ Association, received the outstanding industry employee award, while T. J. Vogle, of Subcon Services, Oklahoma City, Okla., was the winner of the outstanding committee chairman award. Vogle is chairman of the Painting, Decorating and Drywall Apprenticeship and Training Committee.

The outstanding associate member award went to The Bostwick Company and the award was accepted by William I. Tuttle, General Sales Manager of the company.

At the annual banquet on Tuesday night, Harry H. “Bob” Burson, an honorary iaWCC/GDCI life member from Chicago, IL., won the annual Essick mixer. On hand to make the presentation was William Allison, General Sales Manager of Essick.
Two Special Awards Presented

Two special awards to non-members of the association were made during the convention.

These included a special outstanding government official award to former chairman of the National Labor Relations Board, Betty S. Murphy. Mrs. Murphy, who is still a member of the NLRB, was a guest speaker at the Tuesday general session. Her award was presented to her at that time by iaWCC/GDCI Executive Vice President Joe M. Baker, Jr.

Earlier in the convention, Keith R. Haynes, of Colorado, received the coveted Vaughan Award, given by Vaughan Walls, Inc., of Los Angeles, to the most outstanding drywall apprentice in North America.

Haynes was a guest at the convention and received the award from Jack Craig, of Honolulu, president-elect of iaWCC/GDCI, and from Vernon Raymer, of Denver, iaWCC/GDCI secretary and representative of the Rocky Mountain Association of Gypsum Drywall Contractors International which sponsored Haynes.

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"There were parties, too..."

"... and a chance to smile a little..."

"... from the Presidents and their wives."

"The exhibitors are briefed..."
"The crafts were instructive . . ."

". . . and the traffic is heavy . . ."

". . . but the ladies' luncheon . . ."

". . . proved a smash hit . . ."
National Committee meetings

Seminars covered all subjects.

In the exhibit hall.

A respected government official.

A TV show was simulated.

The exhibit hall stayed busy.

Speakers were outstanding.

... and industry supplier wrapped it up.