

PCE&I LINES

REMEMBER THE ALAMO!!!!!!!!!!

Our San Antonio Conference is over and all of us in attendance will “always remember the Alamo!” I heard one of the spouses comment following the viewing of the giant screen IMAX presentation - - - “Wow, I didn’t know we lost!”

The weather wasn’t as warm as expected, but for me a lot better than at home. As the skies cleared Thursday, making the bomb scare bearable, I understand some made it to the golf links that afternoon concluding the week in grand style. Who won Skip?

Those of you not there, sorry but it was your loss. Here in brief are some highlights.



Well, that certainly didn’t turnout the way I planned!! Thursday, March 24th was the last day of the conference in San Antonio, and my last day as Division Chairman. It ended with a **non-bang**, thank goodness!!!

For those of you who left early, a bomb threat was phoned into the Menger Hotel on Thursday morning, and everyone in the hotel was ushered out into the plaza in front of the Alamo. I certainly had a curious mix of emotions on that sunny morning as I stood in the plaza and watched the final minutes of the 2001 PCE&I Conference tick away. Relief that there was no actual bomb or violence; satisfaction that, in spite of many obstacles and some last minute “gotcha’s,” the conference had come off as planned; warm memories of the people, friendships and good times I had at the conference, and truthfully, some apprehension about the future of the division and it’s conferences.

Attendance was roughly 140 people, give or take a few. The weather was cold and rainy for San Antonio, but all the

conference events were well attended, and I think everyone enjoyed the “social” side of the conference. The technical program . . excellent again! I continue to be amazed at the quality of the technical program at such a small conference. I have to acknowledge Ric Snyder, Program Chair, and Kathy Betts, TAPPI staff, who got the job done in Ric’s absence. Great job one and all, especially the session developers! I learned something new at every session I attended.

The PCE&I Division has a tradition of small, intimate conferences. To refresh your memory, here’s the recent list of venue’s:

- 2001 San Antonio, TX**
- 2000 Williamsburg, VA**
- 1999 Atlanta, GA (TAPPI’s tri-annual big show; not small or intimate)**
- 1998 Vancouver, BC**
- 1997 Birmingham, AL**
- 1996 Denver, CO (First PCE&I Division Conference)**
- 1995 Orlando, FL (Last Process Control Committee Conference)**
- 1994 New Orleans, LA**

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With few exceptions, all of these were events with around two hundred attendees. Clearly, attendance has been trending down in recent years. Primarily due to the combined forces of corporate travel restrictions and fewer people in the industry.

I personally would be happy to continue going to conferences with one to two hundred people. But the economics are inexorable. The fixed costs of putting on a conference for one hundred people or one thousand, are pretty even. And hotels are much more willing to negotiate over one thousand rooms instead of one hundred. Conference fees are already at the point where an individual not sponsored by his employer cannot attend.

And so, consolidation comes to the paper industry trade events. TAPPI is making great headway at combining their meetings and exhibits to get higher attendance headcounts. This is hugely important to the supplier community who also need to support fewer events with more potential customers. And beyond TAPPI, events are being consolidated across association boundaries. The Corrugating Division has been very successfully doing joint exhibition/conferences with other packaging associations. The key to success in the future for PCE&I will be to try to maintain the “coziness” of the conference, even when we are part of a larger overall event, and to focus on our value proposition to our members; we are about technical information. We must strive constantly to improve the quality of the technical program and offer leading edge educational programming, a time for networking, and even mentoring at all of our events.

I hope that my stewardship over the last six years has been good for the division. I think I presided over challenging times. I feel very good about the leadership team that I pass the reins to. I plan to help them as much as I can. I hope you will too!

Hank

Hank Wachter, Past Chairman (Hallelujah!!!)

Where Is OUR DIVISION Headed? *By Hazen Danforth*

We are the Process Control, Electrical and Information (PCE&I) folks, challenged to coordinate and communicate throughout the mill the complex technical details of Process Control, Electrical, and Information Systems.

Since we all share the common goal, “help the mill succeed,” perhaps there are things we each have learned (the hard way) that could help someone else. Better yet, I am sure there are tidbits that others have learned that can help me succeed! Today we call that “Networking”; a techie term for caring, sharing, and learning from each other’s experiences.

The PCE&I Division needs to determine what changes are appropriate for our division as we implement the new TAPPI 2010 Vision to better serve YOU, the Division’s Membership and the Pulp and Paper Industry. Your Division Council and Steering Committees have been discussing the 2010 Vision but we need to have input from a broad cross section of the division’s membership so that we are able to implement the 2010 Vision in a way that will best serve your needs. Your Division Council and Steering Committees have held several discussion sessions to get input from the general membership. However, we need to hear from everyone that has an idea for us. If you were not able to attend any of these sessions or have an idea or opinion that you have thought of since the session I would love to hear from you. Please send your ideas to me by E-Mail at hwdanfor@gapac.com or by snail mail at P.O. Box 1438, Brunswick Ga. 31521.

There are a few things about the changes that will be taking place that are already clear to us. I would like to discuss these with you. TAPPI can no longer afford to lose money on Technical Conferences. The PCE&I Conference has managed to cover all of its direct expenses the last couple of years. However, we have not met our obligation to TAPPI to cover our share of the overhead expenses. We have not paid for the TAPPI Staff that work directly on our conference nor have we contributed our share to

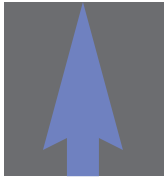
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CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

chairman's

Where Is OUR DIVISION Headed?

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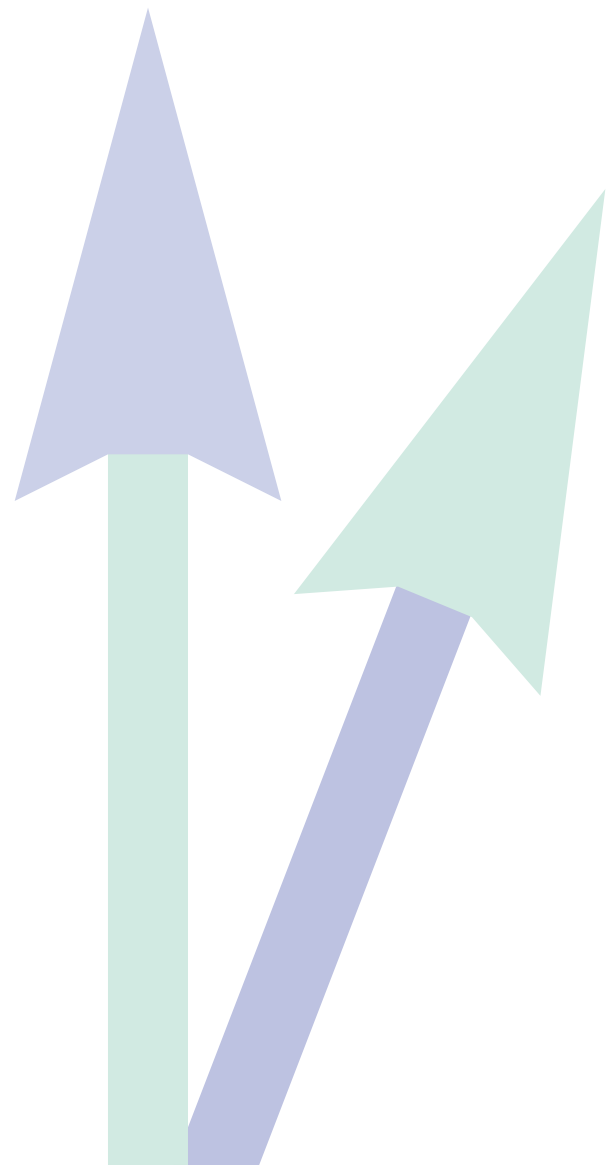
cover general TAPPI overhead. The 2001 meeting in San Antonio will probably be our last dedicated conference. Joint conferences are becoming the norm in TAPPI for all divisions and are unavoidable for the small divisions like ours. Therefore, our 2002 conference will be held in conjunction with the TAPPI Paper Summit to be held in Atlanta March 3-6, 2002. This conference will be a joint-conference together with the Paper and Board Division and the Water Removal Committee of the Engineering Division.

We are also in the early planning stages for a joint conference with the Pulping Division in 2003. This meeting would be held in the fall in Chicago. I am excited about meeting with the Papermaking and Pulping folks. After all they are our main customers for the systems we install and use to optimize our mill performance. It will be helpful to them to learn more about our technologies and helpful for us to learn more about their needs for Process Control, Electrical, and Information Systems.

I see these joint conferences as a positive step that will help us all get more out of our PCE&I Conference. However, there are a few things that we must do right if we are to gain new benefits for these larger joint conferences. We don't want to lose any of the advantages of the smaller more intimate conferences we have held in the past. Our 2002 meeting in Atlanta will be similar to the 1999 PCE&I Conference which was also a joint conference with the Paper and Board Division and the TAPPI Trade Show that is held every 3 years. There were a few shortcomings during the 1999 event that we do not want to repeat in 2002. The PCE&I Conference got somewhat lost in the overall larger event in 1999. This led to a loss of the networking opportunities that we all value so much in our PCE&I Conference. We will take several steps to overcome this issue in 2002. We have designated the Wyndham Hotel as the PCE&I hotel for the 2002 Conference. We will hold several events for just our division in this hotel. For example, we are planning a small Conference Reception for just our division to be held at the Wyndham. All members of the PCE&I Division that attend the 2002 PCE&I

Conference should make an effort to stay in the Wyndham Hotel so we can be successful at achieving the networking opportunities that have been such an important part of our conferences.

Our Division Newsletter, "PCE&I Lines," is one of the tools we will use to share, motivate, and remind each of us we all gain more than we give — but it is important for you to be involved and keep our PCE&I Division growing. Please take as active a roll in the development of our program and conference as possible. Skeeter Reed of Weyerhaeuser will be our program chairman for the 2002 PCE&I Conference. If you have a paper to give or would like to participate in a panel discussion or perhaps a tutorial, please contact Skeeter as soon as possible at wreed@mbpi.com or call him at 334-963-2323.



"Oh by the way!"

By Burt Judson - Editor PCE&I Lines

This "Spring Issue" is meant to keep everyone up to date, and is just a preamble to a "Summer Issue" that we have been promised in hard copy as well as an electronic version. We call this "spring," it certainly is time, but why are there snow showers from Minnesota to New York. Don't I remember Easter was last weekend?

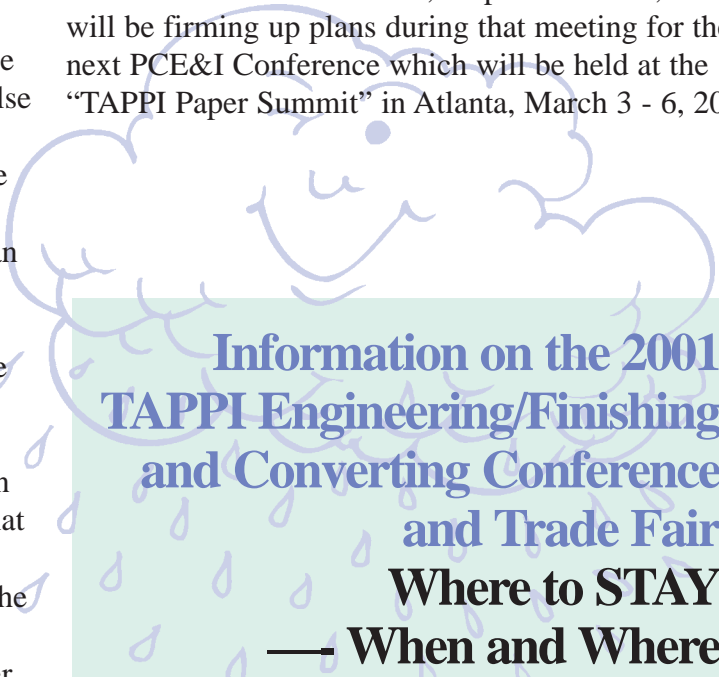
Many of you asked about Erik, our grandson! He is doing great, already into his second set of prosthesis and getting along just fine. I brought a photo composite to San Antonio just to show him off with his "new legs," walker with a basket and a bell, and that beautiful smile. A very normal and other wise healthy two year old. All of our prayers have been answered. Thank you for your concerns, words, prayers and thoughts, it has meant a lot.

I was especially happy to see Hazen and have a chance to talk with him following his own health ordeals of these past few months. As if "getting through" Y2K wasn't enough. Wow, what a positive attitude! That is key to our health and everything else we do. When "positive attitude" is combined with medical technology, the best of skills and care at the Mayo Clinic, and many many prayers as well - - - it was no wonder to find our next Division Chairman back in fine spirits and hard at work!

Some final thoughts on our Conference just concluded. If you are among those that didn't make the trip, you really did miss a beautiful city and a wonderful time. I had been through the airport before, but had never spent any time "downtown" in San Antonio. It truly is beautiful. I had no idea what to expect of the "Riverwalk." But it is a very well kept, safe place to stroll during the day or through the evening. So many unique places to eat and drink, I could have been entertained very easily for another week. Everyone was friendly and things were reasonably priced.

I know we talk of seeing old friends, networking with peers, and having a chance to meet others through TAPPI. This year's conference did have a significant number of "first time attendees." The conference as well as the city and surroundings made it very easy to greet one another and enjoy a great week with our PCE&I friends.

We do have a chance to return to the Alamo. This fall's 2001 TAPPI Engineering/Finishing and Converting Conference and Trade Fair will be held in San Antonio and our Division's Interim Meetings are planned to be at the same time. We won't be at the Menger Hotel, but at the Marriott Rivercenter, "just up the river" and only a block or two away from the Menger. Perhaps I can find a chance to introduce you to another unique place for dinner and people watching. I hope to see all of you at "THE INTERIM MEETING" in San Antonio, September 16th, as we will be firming up plans during that meeting for the next PCE&I Conference which will be held at the "TAPPI Paper Summit" in Atlanta, March 3 - 6, 2002.



**Information on the 2001
TAPPI Engineering/Finishing
and Converting Conference
and Trade Fair
Where to STAY
— When and Where
we MEET!
go to the web site --
for detailed information**

http://www.tappi.org/public/events_detail.asp?ID=01ENG-FIN