

Meet Your Past President . . .

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is another in the series of sketches on past presidents which Oil & Soap inaugurated in March, 1946, to acquaint new members with former leaders. The first president was Felix Paquin, pro tem in 1909, elected in 1910. Succeeding officers have been David Wesson, E. R. Barrow, F. N. Smalley, G. W. Agee, G. G. Fox, T. C. Law, Archibald Campbell, P. S. Tilson, Rex W. Perry, F. B. Porter, C. B. Cluff, L. M. Tolman, H. B. Battle, H. J. Morrison, J. J. Vollertsen, R. H. Fash, H. P. Trevithick, A. W. Putland, W. R. Stryker, W. H. Irwin, A. S. Richardson, N. C. Hamner, J. P. Harris, W. D. Hutchins, A. A. Robinson, E. C. Ainslie, M. L. Sheely, Charles H. Cox, H. C. Dormitzer, H. A. Schuette, and W. G. McLeod. As of December, 1947, the series will be completed and the sketches assembled and bound in a volume together with the preceding series on Society committees. These volumes will then be offered for sale.)

HAROLD S. MITCHELL, 1942

IN 33rd place in the line of presidents of the American Oil Chemists' Society, Harold S. Mitchell (better known as "Mitch") was elected at the 1942 annual meeting at the Rice hotel in Houston, Texas, on April 30 and May 1. Prominent at Swift and Company, where he had been since 1912, he was equally prominent and active in the Society. After joining the Society in 1932, he served on various committees, notably Refining since 1936; Detergents, 1932-33; Oil Characteristics, 1936-37; Constitution and By-Laws, 1940-41; vice president and membership chairman, 1941-42. As president he was ex-officio member of the Referee Board in 1942-43, and by virtue of becoming president remained a member of the Governing Board until 1947. Additional committee service has included chairmanship of the Refining Committee in recent years, membership on Constitution and By-Laws from 1946-48 and Nominating and Election Procedure, 1945-46.

His career at Swift's began in the analytical division, where he worked with meat and meat products, oils and fats, soap and glycerin for six or seven years before entering the research department. In 1925 he established the sales service division in the research laboratories and continued to do research work in fats and oils until appointed assistant chief chemist in 1939. When R. C. Newton was made vice president in charge of research in October, 1941, Mr. Mitchell was appointed chief chemist. His specialty has been edible fats and oils, and his present title is director of laboratories.

On the personal side the facts include birth in Little Falls, N. Y., on November 12, 1890, B.S. in 1912 from Syracuse university, and graduation from the American Institute of Baking school in 1925. With Mrs. Mitchell he makes his home at 6423 Ellis avenue, Chicago, Ill.

DURING the Mitchell regime the usual fall meeting was held at the Drake hotel, Chicago, on October 7-9, 1942, but the traditional banquet was omitted because of the war. And the following spring Mr.

Mitchell presided at the 1943 meeting, held on May 12-14 at the Roosevelt hotel, which attracted a registration of 175 from 24 states. Membership gain for the year amounted to 132 new members. The social side of this meeting was minimized because of the war and emphasis placed on the scientific activities. The constitution and by-laws were revised, and amendments considered beneficial to the Society were adopted. Precedent was broken this year by assigning the responsibility for the program to a local New Orleans committee rather than asking the Society president to arrange for the papers.

The 1943 meeting also marked the close of the first full year of Society operation of Oil & Soap, under the editorship of H. L. Roschen of Swift and Company, Chicago. The practice of publishing in the journal the important actions of the Governing Board, which was started during Mr. Mitchell's term of office, has been continued and has served to keep the membership better posted as to the affairs of the Society.

In his presidential address Mr. Mitchell pointed out that "in spite of the responsibilities of the members arising from the necessity of giving first place to the war effort, the membership generally responded splendidly under the circumstances to the tasks necessary for the proper conduct of the Society, and many gave unselfishly of their time and effort."

LAMAR M. KISHLAR, 1943

INNOVATIONS marked the term of office for the 34th president of the American Oil Chemists' Society, Lamar M. Kishlar of the Ralston Purina Company, St. Louis, Mo. The first drying oil symposium ever given before the Society was a feature of the fall meeting at the Palmer house, Chicago, on October 6-8, 1943 with J. K. Gunther of Swift and Company as program chairman. At the 1944 annual meeting, over which Mr. Kishlar presided, mimeographed abstracts of the papers were distributed for the first time; chairman of the ladies' entertainment committee was a working chemist, Madeline Gomila Lambou (Mrs. Paul O.); the Kishlar loving cup made from a stainless steel refining cup was presented to the incumbent membership chairman, K. S. Markley, for the record he and his committee set in bringing in 156 new members; the first president of the Society, Felix Paquin, was

host at a reception for past presidents and it was agreed to hold an annual dinner for past presidents, at which the senior past officer would preside; and the Governing Board met on the Saturday following the convention for an all-day meeting rather than try to crowd its business into a Friday afternoon session. In his presidential address Mr. Kishlar urged the appointment of a post-war planning committee of 10 members to enlarge the work of the Society. Pointing



H. S. MITCHELL



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