The Presidential Theme

Develop Our Human Resources

President Frederick H. Kohloss, P.E., sets program to develop more volunteers to work for the good of the society, HVAC&R technology and the public welfare

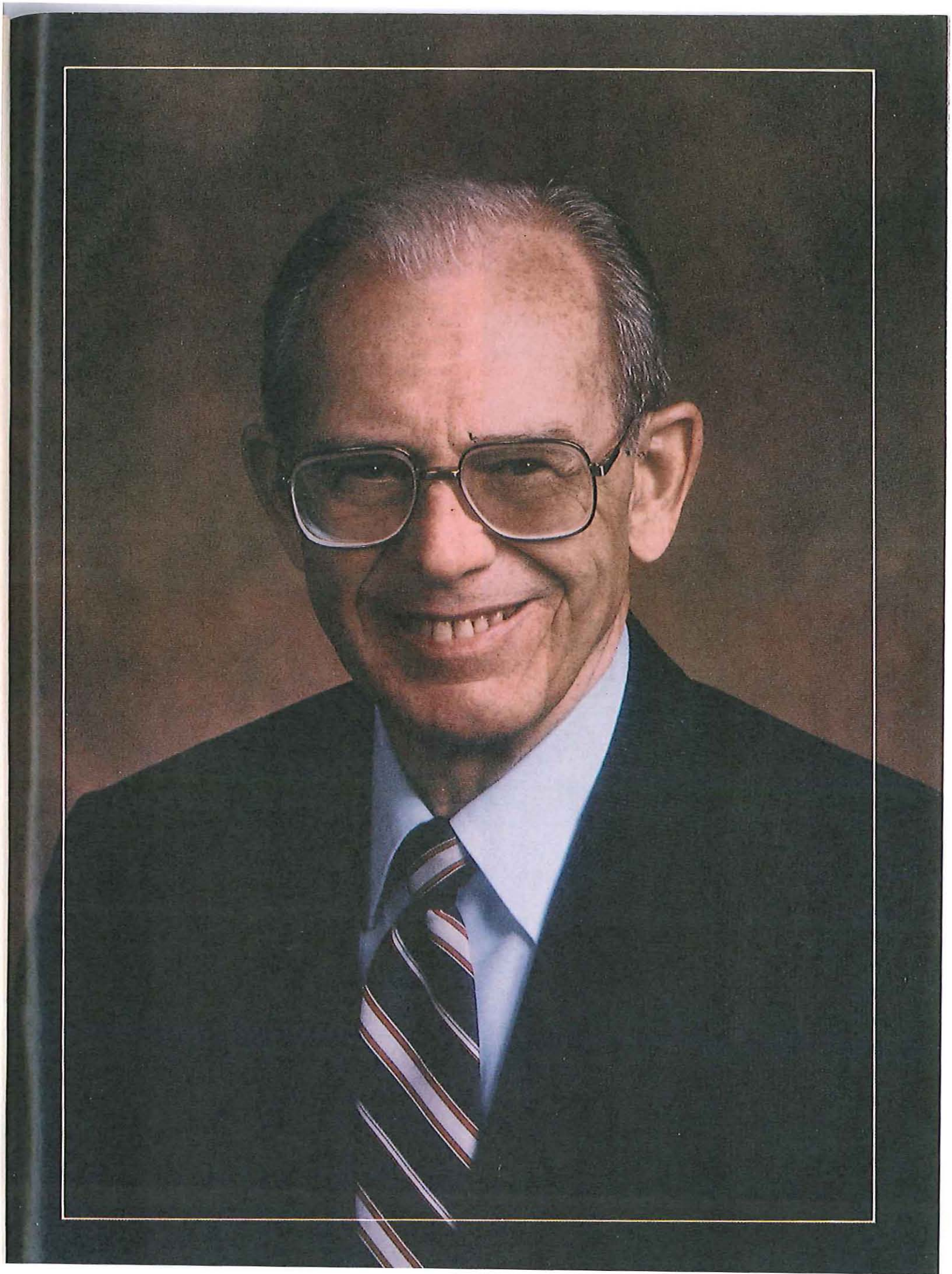
The complete text of the inaugural address delivered at the Annual Meeting, American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) is indebted to the many dedicated members who have served our Society, directed by the consistently high caliber of ASHRAE leaders.

I am honored by being chosen to lead ASHRAE and I am awed by the achievements of my predecessors. The commitment of our members has fostered phenomenal development. In less than a decade:

- ASHRAE has moved its headquarters to its own building in Atlanta.
- ASHRAE has restructured its Board of Directors so that Councils, as arms of the Board, coordinate the standing committees in directing Society activities.
- ASHRAE has reorganized its staff led by our able chief staff officer, Frank Coda, under four staff directors in Atlanta: Member and Chapter Services, Carolyn Stewart; Communications and Publications, Steve Comstock; Fiscal and Administrative Services, Walter Glasser; and Technology, Richard Wright.
- ASHRAE has established a Washington office for Government Affairs headed by staff director Jim Cox.
- ASHRAE has restructured its regional boundaries to 12 regions.
- ASHRAE has grown internationally, with more overseas conferences and associates and now chapters-at-large.
- ASHRAE has expanded its publications, with a new sequence of Handbook volumes, more special publications, and the imminent debut of a Society news publication to supplement the Journal.

Frederick H. Kohloss, P.E. (right), principal of the consulting engineering firm of Frederick H. Kohloss & Associates in Honolulu, Hawaii, was installed as 1986-87 president of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Inc., at the June 1986 Annual Meeting of the Society. He has been a member of ASHRAE's Board of Directors since 1977. Last year, Kohloss served as the Society's president-elect and chairman of ASHRAE's Regions Council and the Exposition Policy and President-Elect Advisory Committees. Previously, he served two terms as Society vice president, chairing the Technology Council and Member Council, and one term as treasurer, chairing the Publishing Council. A former member-at-large of the Board of Directors, he has been chairman of several ASHRAE technical committees and the International Activities Committee. A member of the Society since 1949 and a charter member of the Hawaii Chapter, Kohloss received the Society's Distinguished Service Award in 1978. In 1973, he was named an ASHRAE Fellow, in recognition of his contributions to technological advancement. His firm, which was established in 1961, also has offices in Tucson and Denver.



Develop Our Human Resources

- ASHRAE has led in effective energy use in buildings and in promulgating the ethic of energy conservation.

- ASHRAE has issued or revised over 120 standards.

- ASHRAE has increased its research expenditure to over one million dollars a year.

- ASHRAE's annual budget has tripled.

With all this activity, one thing has remained constant: ASHRAE's strength is in this willingness and capability of thousands of our volunteer members, working for our Society, for our technology, and for the public welfare.

The Society's explosive growth has piled more work on our volunteers. To keep today's dedication and commitment alive in the future, ASHRAE workers must be reinforced by new volunteers.

We must show younger members the opportunity for learning and professional growth by chapter membership and participation, and by regional and Society-wide activity. Our people—ASHRAE's membership—are our most important asset. To nurture it, I have selected the theme: *Develop Our Human Resources.*

To help spread this message, Society leaders will visit chapters to describe the opportunities ASHRAE offers its members.

Our Society officers, Barney Burroughs, Lou Flagg, Dave Butler and Tom Brown, constitute an experienced team, committed to ASHRAE progress. They will spearhead our efforts.

ASHRAE's directors and regional chairmen carry out the critical responsibility for chapter operations. I have asked each regional chairman to coordinate five chapter visits within his region, by ASHRAE officers and directors, in addition to the visits normally made by regional leaders. They'll be good teachers for our younger members.

Combining the fundamentals and computers

While ASHRAE's activities and influence have been growing, the use of computers has become an inherent part of our technology and commerce. As our members have been learning to use these magnificent, powerful tools, ASHRAE's staff has employed computers to increase service to our members.

But, nothing is free.

This new analytical ability and computing power has left a gap. The judgement of the typical engineer, built upon his steady accumulation of knowledge gleaned from trial and error, may now be weakened by excessive reliance on computer output.

A century ago William Gilbert, in the libretto to accompany Arthur Sullivan's delightful music in the operetta "The Mikado," conceived a great line "...To lend artistic verisimilitude to an otherwise bald and unconvincing narrative." That's what computer printouts may do today if we haven't applied our engineering fundamentals to the input.

A major challenge facing ASHRAE today is to train younger engineers in the application of engineering fundamentals and to provide those already in responsible positions with information which keeps their practice current and their thinking sharp.

The task of the engineer is the economic utilization of science for the benefit of mankind. Undergraduate engineering curricula traditionally stress a foundation in mathematics and physical science, with a leavening of liberal arts, including written and verbal communication skills, economics and foreign languages. Engineering sciences, and techniques of framing and solving problems, are covered in depth. Experimental techniques and laboratory work are emphasized with some synthesis of the material in design courses.

So, this general, basic nature of engineering education may not be sufficiently specific to make a young engineer immediately cost effective to an employer. This is as it should be, in my opinion, because an engineer's formal education should stress the application of basic principles to solve future problems unknown at the time he begins his career. Thus the engineer's life-long professional development builds on those principles.

Education through the chapters

ASHRAE can achieve its purpose, to advance the arts and sciences of heating, ventilation, refrigeration and air conditioning and related human factors, only if we accelerate the professional development of our members. The most effective way for us to achieve this is through our chapters.

Over 30,000 members attend one or more chapter meetings a year. To most ASHRAE members the Society is the chapter. Those of us who volunteer for service at the Society level have to assist our chapters in serving our members' needs.

Good chapter technical programs are critical to our Society's effectiveness. ASHRAE must bring program material from Society meetings to a wider audience. We have begun production of video-based material from Society meeting programs for chapter program use.

Many chapters hold technical education sessions in addition to regular meeting programs. ASHRAE has its special publications, useful materials for such sessions.

ASHRAE has over 10,000 student members, mostly in our student branches, sponsored by our ASHRAE chapters. Chapter members must achieve closer continuing relationships with student members, for students are ASHRAE's future.

Tying the chapters to the Society are the regions. Each region's Chapters Regional Committee Conference (CRC) meets annually. The CRC is the basic communication link between the grassroots of the Society and the leadership and staff.

This spring a Presidential Committee was appointed to explore better regional organization. Steps will be taken to more effectively use the talents and time of the regional chairmen and the vice chairmen who assist them to provide optimum service to the chapters.

Our publications provide a major service to our members. *Insights*, ASHRAE's new periodical, will focus on our internal operation: providing Society, regional and chapter news and publicizing effective chapter programs. *ASHRAE Journal* will continue to be published monthly but with more emphasis on new technology, with additional space devoted to technical articles of interest to our members.

This year we will begin a program in the chapters, of peer review of the *ASHRAE Handbook.* As technology has advanced, the material in the Handbook volumes has become more detailed and precise. Good as the information is, wider review of the Handbook data at the primary use level in the chapters will improve both content and presentation.

Of course other ASHRAE activities outside the chapters will proceed. Development of standards continues. The most monumental updating and revision tasks in this field are well along: Standards 90.1 and 90.2 on energy conservation in new buildings, and Standard 62 on indoor air quality. The knowledge, dedication, effort and perseverance of the people who have been developing these standards is outstanding.

Energy use and indoor air quality are at the heart of ASHRAE activity and interest, are essential to the public welfare, and touch almost everyone. This wide spectrum of interested and affected parties has brought an unusually heavy work load in getting these standards to consensus so they may be issued. Many other standard project committees (SPCs) are also at work. SPCs offer a good opportunity for member participation in Society activity.

Research has always been paramount in ASHRAE's activities. Joseph Joubert, the French philosopher of the 18th century, put it this way: "You want to explain everything by the facts that are known to you. But the facts that are not known to you? What do they say?"

Research is essential to progress and research results must be disseminated to be of use.

Therefore, as you know, every ASHRAE research contract requires publication of the results and whenever appropriate, presentation at a Society meeting.

The ASHRAE Research and Technical Committee coordinates the work of ASHRAE's 90 technical committees (TCs) and helps members to learn what they don't know.

ASHRAE's TCs each have three purposes: First, in their specific areas of expertise they prepare work statements for proposed ASHRAE research and monitor the performance of the research; second, they prepare program items—technical papers, symposiums, seminars and forums for Society meetings; and third, they prepare chapters for the Handbook and propose needed standards to the Standards Committee. Membership on a TC is an excellent way for ASHRAE members to participate in Society affairs.

The road map to the future

All of ASHRAE's efforts are guided by the Society's Strategic Plan. It can be compared to a road map, to be fleshed out by the many sights and experiences encountered along the way.

Execution of the Strategic Plan is the responsibility of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors. ASHRAE's Directors at Large are responsible for monitoring our progress toward achieving the plan's objectives.

The Long Range Planning Committee is responsible for periodic updating. The Strategic Plan is thus a living document, modified as some objectives are reached and others are redefined.

This year, ASHRAE will build upon the solid foundation laid down by my predecessors. We will emphasize to our members the benefit to them by their active participation in chapter affairs, and when possible, attendance at CRCs and Society meetings.

The broad scope of ASHRAE's efforts affords opportunity to enhance individual technical competence. We will encourage ASHRAE members to develop and mature, to take their places in advancing our Society's technical and research efforts. In this way, we will *develop our human resources.*

I know I can count on your help and I assure you of my personal dedication to keep ASHRAE progressive, strong and vital. ■