

WILLIAM S. GUITTEAU

FOUNDER • MAYOR I • 1937-1941



Bill Guitteau was born in Toledo, Ohio in 1883. He served in many facets of the gas industry for more than 45 years . . . including gas light companies, construction companies, gas holder, fabricating and erecting companies. He worked with Stacey Manufacturing Company, Roote Blower Company and Stacey Bros. Company, where he was President of Eastern Distributor Operations. He was also a special representative for American Meter Company. His wife was Maud E. Guitteau. They had one daughter who is now Mrs. Fernor G. Manley.

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1937 . . . THE FOUNDING OF THE GILD at Skytop, Pennsylvania.

1938 . . . THE GILD'S SECOND YEAR. Principal accomplishments were the adoption of the Gild emblem in the form of a lapel button, to be worn at all times, but especially at Gild functions under pain of a \$1.00 fine for the "Good Cheer" fund; membership cards issued to all Suppliers; a brochure mailed to all members so that each would have a copy of the Constitution and By-Laws; and the first Gild Christmas card mailed by the Mayor and Clerk to all Suppliers.

1939 . . . THE GILD'S THIRD YEAR. To encourage the use of gas . . . this is the first objective of the Gild. The Gild "Oscar" was designed, a bronze figure of the "Gas House Terrier." As immortalized in Walter Clark's poem, the first Gild Oscar was presented at the AGA Convention to R. M. Conner, for years Director of AGA Laboratories.

The Gild also elected its first Honorary Supplier . . . Herman Russell, president of the Rochester (N. Y.) Gas & Electric Corp. He was presented with the Gild Oscar for his many industry contributions.

The Third Annual Meeting Feast was held the evening of October 10 at the Hotel Pennsylvania.

1940 . . . THE GILD'S FOURTH YEAR. Gild Breakfasts, highlights of national, regional and state gas association conventions and conferences, were born in 1940, and hundreds of them have been held since that date. The custom has grown to invite one or two Burghers (gas company operating executives or presidents of the several Districts of Regional Gas Associations) to address the breakfast group.

1941 . . . THE GILD'S FIFTH YEAR. As with all other American organizations, this was the last year the Gild functioned on a peacetime basis, until war clouds were dispelled in August, 1945.

An innovation, to prove extremely popular for many years, was the annual Gild Wassail, which replaced the Feast. A select list of Burghers was invited at their own expense. The officers appeared in full regalia.

The Gild honored Alexander Forward, managing director of the AGA, by electing him Honorary Member of the Gild. Ed Bartlett was elected mayor.



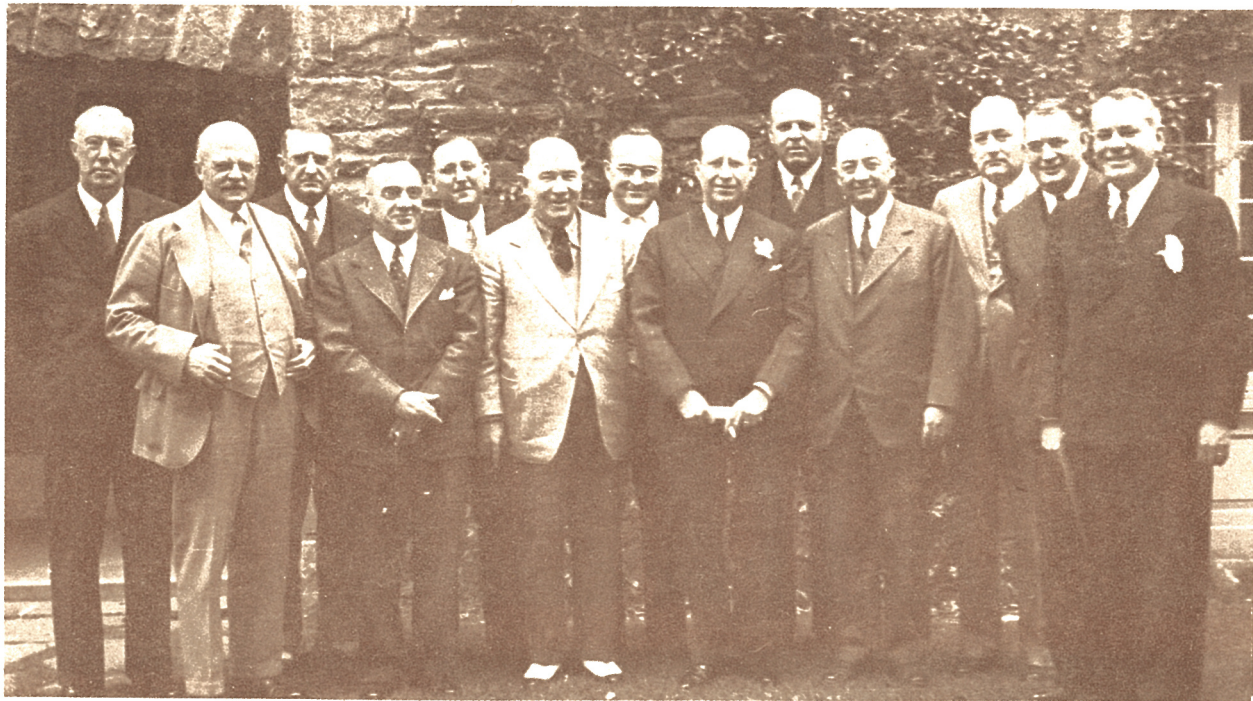
Wassail, held at Hotel Madison, in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Shown in full regalia are (l. to r.) Jim Moore, Griff Gribbel, John Clark, Joe Messenger, Ed Bartlett, Bill Peffley, The Speaker, Bill Guitteau, Schuyler McKenzie, Jack Bonner, Joe Mulcare.




First Wassail, in Cleveland, Ohio, 1937.



Breakfast in the South.



The Suppliers gather.

Charter  Member

To John Van Norden
Greetings

IN the name and under the authority of the Villeins,
 Apprentices, Yeoman and Masters of the

Gild of Ancient Suppliers of
Gas Appliances, Skills
Gins, Accessories and Substances

and with the sanction of the

GREAT COUNCIL
 thereof

I extend to you, in recognition of your long service in the
 business or profession which you worthily represent, an
 invitation to membership in this Gild devoted to preserving
 and encouraging the highest ideals in our respective crafts.

* * *

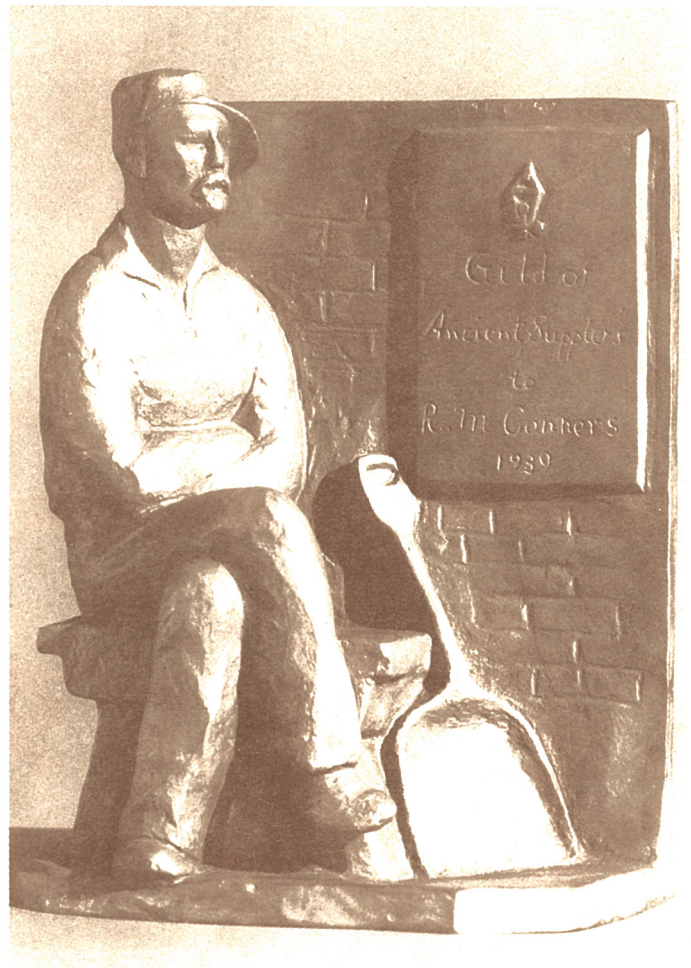
In accepting this invitation you will please fill in the ac-
 companying form and sign it in acknowledgment of the
 obligation contained therein and of your willingness to con-
 form to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Gild.

Your attention is called to Article 3, Section 1, of the
 Constitution.

Date May 3, 1937 N. Quinn MAYOR

Attest [Signature] CLERK

Gild Charter Membership Certificate.



Gild's first Oscar.



Here we are,
all decked out.



You're kiddin', says Joe
Green to Bill.



I can't
stand it,
says Davis.