

1937

For quite a number of years prior to 1937, Billy Guitteau had discussed the feasibility of forming an organization in the gas industry that would be composed of those men who had sold to the gas industry for twenty-five years and over.

The idea in Bill's mind was that those men who had been selling to the gas industry for such a length of time would have come to know the top men in gas company operation and management well enough to be able to meet them on very friendly terms, because actually they would have grown up in the industry at the same time.

It was Bill Guitteau's plan to put together an organization that would be sure not to have the rather wet and slippery demise that ended the gas meters. The thought was to take into the organization only those men whose reputation in sales work was beyond question and who had always striven to promote the interests of the gas industry and to serve the operators faithfully and well. With a reputation for membership of this kind, it was quite correctly felt that men who displayed the emblem of the Gild would at once attract the respect and confidence of all the men in the industry.

It was also felt that with an organization of this kind the members would be helpful to each other at that time in life when a man's productive years were drawing to a close.

In these discussions with Bill the thought was developed that perhaps this organization of old timers in the sales field could take on an educational program by assisting worthy boys who were sons of men holding lesser positions in the industry to obtain a college education and fit themselves to carry on in the industry.

Thus, during the Pennsylvania Gas Association Convention at Skytop, Pennsylvania in May, 1937 a number of us were talking about the same thing in the lobby of the hotel when it was suggested that nothing could be accomplished unless the ball was started rolling, and so one of the group proposed that each one present contribute ten dollars toward a fund to cover the necessary expenses that would be incurred in launching such a proposal. This was concurred with by those present and the money collected was turned over to Mr. C. Edwin Bartlett, who later became the first Senior Warden and the second Mayor of the Gild.

This original group consisted of the following thirteen men:

Heredith N. Bailey, American Meter Co.
1513 Race Street, Phila., Pa.

C.E. Bartlett, 3223 Arch St., Phila., Pa.

John J. Bonner, Sales Mgr., Welsbach Co.
Gloucester, N. J.

Ward Cheeseman, Sprague Meter Co.
Bridgeport, Conn.

John C. Clark, Pres., The E.F. Griffiths Co.
346 E. Walnut Lane, Phila., Pa.

W.G. Gribbel, V.P., American Meter Co., Phila.

W.G. Guitteau, V.P., Stacey Bros. Const. Co., Inc.
24 State St., New York, N. Y.

Al Klein, 23 Warren St., New York, N. Y.

Schuyler T. McKenzie, S. R. Dresser Mfg. Co.
Bradford, Pa.

J.A. Messenger, United Engineers & Const., Inc.
1401 Arch St., Phila., Pa.

J.A. Mulcare, Pres., Mulcare Engineering Co.
100 Park Place, New York, N. Y.

W. J. Stanton, Spang Chalfont Co.
30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York

H. Leigh Whitelaw, V.P., American Gas Products Co.
40 W. 40th St., New York, N. Y.

With this start, a luncheon meeting was held on May 5th, 1937, at which meeting more definite plans for procedure were discussed and decided upon. It was also decided that the organization would take the form of an old English Gild, as the idea was to have the organization represent quality which was the prime purpose of the English Gilds of old.

At this meeting it was decided that Ed Bartlett was to take charge of the money and, with the assistance of a committee composed of M. N. Bailey, W. S. Guitteau, J. A. Messenger, John J. Bonner and John C. Clarke, he was to proceed with the writing of the necessary constitution and by-laws for the organization in mind.

From that point the organization proceeded in very good shape. C. Edwin Bartlett labored long, loyally and well and produced, with the often less able assistance of his assistants a constitution and by-laws, which were placed before the entire committee at the Penn Athletic Club in Philadelphia on August 19, 1937.

At this meeting, which lasted from mid-afternoon until rather late in the evening, the constitution and by-laws were thrashed out, article by article and paragraph by paragraph, the result being the present constitution and by-laws of the Gild. At this meeting, however, it was proposed, fostered and backed by Bill Guitteau that the Gild should be expanded from the small, rather select, exclusive, astute and elderly membership originally conceived, to a point where it would take in men who had served for only a meagre ten years. This caused the necessity of introducing the various grades of membership, to wit, the Villeins, Apprentices, Yeomen and Masters.

The original draft of the constitution and by-laws, as written and submitted by C. Edwin Bartlett, were changed very little indeed, which demonstrates conclusively one of two things - either the job was most excellently done, or Mr. C. Edwin Bartlett had exceptional sales ability.

At a subsequent meeting during the summer of 1937 the first slate of officers of the Gild was elected. This slate was as follows:

Mayor - William S. Guitteau

Senior Warden - C. Edwin Bartlett

Clerk - J. H. Moore

Keeper-of-the-Treasure - John J. Bonner

Aldermen - John C. Clark
W. Griffin Cribbel
Joseph A. Messenger

Sergeant-at-Arms - M. H. Bailey

Wardens - E. D. Brewer
William J. Foster
F. A. Lenke
Schuyler T. McKenzie
Joseph A. Mulcare
Walter V. Turner

On August 24, 1937 W. S. Guitteau wrote a letter to C. E. Bartlett from which the following is extracted:

"What would you and the other members of the Great Council think of the idea of having our Annual Dinner just for present members and new candidates that might be elected by the Great Council prior to the hour of the dinner in Cleveland, and then have a ritual, which you are so ably qualified to write, or in other words an initiation ceremony."

At the next meeting of the committee when this letter was spread upon the table the committee unanimously instructed Senior Warden, Bartlett to compose a humorous ritual which could be used at the meeting of the Gild that fall during the A.O.A. Convention in October at Cleveland.

Once again our good friend, Ed Bartlett, took his pen in hand and labored long and well, from early morning until far into the night, and composed a most excellent ritual. To this day this ritual is in existence and cannot be improved upon, but it has been so badly cut, mauled, manhandled and mistreated that one would hardly recognize the present ritual as being the outgrowth of the masterly literary composition that first came from the fluent pen of our literary genius, C. Edwin Bartlett. The original ritual follows:

ORIGINAL RITUAL

The Mayor from his place where're he may be calls for order

Mayor: "Sergeant-at-Arms! Approach the Fount of Wisdom for the purpose of conversation."

The Sergeant-at-Arms approaches the Mayor. The Mayor and Sergeant-at-Arms hold short whispered conversation. Sergeant-at-Arms then proceeds to the end of room.

Sergeant-at-Arms: (In loud voice) "Hear ye! Hear ye! Hear ye! His Excellency The Mayor desires that His Somewhat Less Excellency The Senior Warden, Their Middling Excellencies the Aldermen, His Accuracy The Clerk, His Probity The Keeper of The Treasure, and His General Utility the Sergeant-at-Arms gather with him in secret conclave for the purpose of arriving at a consensus. Will their several Excellencies thus proceed at once to the reception room?"

The Mayor and officers then retire to adjoining room where they robe etc.

Sergeant-at-Arms re-enters the dining room and proceeds to the front of platform.

Sergeant-at-Arms: (In loud voice) "Hear ye! Hear ye! Hear ye! Suppliers Arise! and salute His Excellency The Mayor, and The Great Council."

Preparatory to a General Session of The Gild.

Villains stand with left hands over mouths and right hands cupping ears denoting that they should say little and listen much.

Apprentices stand with their arms folded and their left hands to their chins denoting thought.

Yeomen stand with their thumbs in the arm holes of their vests and smile denoting satisfaction with themselves.

Masters stand with their heads bowed, with both hands to their temples denoting a terrible head ache.

Guests stand with both arms extended straight upwards denoting that for once they are at the mercy of The Suppliers.

The Sergeant-at-Arms retires. The procession then enters the dining room.

1st The Sergeant-at-Arms carrying the Mace and the Tocsin.

2nd The Mayor and The Senior Warden arm in arm.

3rd The Three Aldermen arm in arm.

4th The Clerk and The Keeper of The Treasure. Not arm in arm.

The procession halts.

Mayor: "Sergeant-at-Arms."

Sergeant-at-Arms: "At your service your Excellency."

Mayor: "Assemble the Suppliers of The Gild with the Mace and the Tocsin. Take the Mace hold it high, sound the Tocsin, make it ring, convoke the Brethern."

Sergeant-at-Arms: "But Your Excellency I pray that you will permit the Welkin to be rung instead."

Mayor: "Hast thou forgotten that the Gas Operators got our Welkin."

Sergeant-at-Arms: "Yes Your Excellency but why did the operators deprive us of our Welkin? Surely they can not ring it."

Mayor: "You are probably of that thought but alas they discovered it in a contract, and being so small, they believed it to be a profit and wrung it out." But time passes apace lets proceed. Convoke the Brethern as directed.

Sergeant-at-Arms: "As you desire me Your Excellency."

Sergeant-at-Arms then takes the Mace and Tocsin walks around the room once stopping three times in the circuit.

1st stop -

Sergeant-at-Arms: "Gentlemen: Please be advised."

2nd stop -

Sergeant-at-Arms: "Gentlemen: We beg to state."

3rd stop -

Sergeant-at-Arms: "Gentlemen: We would call to your attention."

Mayor: "Sergeant-at-Arms! My instructions were for you to Convoke the Brethren. Not to dictate a letter."

The Sergeant-at-Arms then takes his place in front of the Mayor with the Mace and Tocsin held high facing the Suppliers.

Sergeant-at-Arms: "Brother Suppliers and unworthy guests, by command of His Excellency the Mayor I call upon all the Brethren of The Guild, speedily to assemble for now will be a convocation in Annual Session of The Guild of Ancient Suppliers of Gas Appliances, Skills, Gins and Substances. Officers will take their stations. Masters, Yeoman, Apprentices and Villeins gather round. Guests may remain if order is maintained and they refrain from putting into words any thoughts they may have."

The Mayor then takes his place on the platform followed by the other officers. The seating arrangement is shown in sketch. The Sergeant-at-Arms sees that all the officers are seated and then stands in front of his own seat.

Sergeant-at-Arms: "Gentlemen be seated." (turns to Mayor) "Your Excellency the Guild assembled awaits your pleasure and instruction."
(Bows and takes seat.)

Mayor: "Sergeant-at-Arms! designate a receptionist and bid him approach the fount of Wisdom for advice and instruction."

Sergeant-at-Arms: "Will Supplier (Name) come forward. Your Excellency, I designate to you Supplier (Name) a faithful Member of Our Guild to act as receptionist during this Session and pre-

sent him to you now."

Mayor: "Your station is by yonder door to see that no one enters without proper credentials. Keep accurate account of all strangers that seek admission, learn their full business, names, and who they desire to converse with. Keep track also of how long each waits without complaint. Be sure that each is furnished with the latest prospectus of preferred stock and see that no one goes away entirely satisfied. Kindly take your station."

Mayor: "Sergeant-at-Arms! Call the roll of the officers and satisfy yourself that each is in his accustomed place and ready for the business at hand."

The Sergeant-at-Arms then calls the roll of officers as follows:

"His Excellency The Mayor. Are you present and well prepared?" (The Mayor rises and bows.)
"His somewhat less Excellency The Senior Warden. Are you present and well prepared?" (The Senior Warden rises and bows.) "Their Middling Excellencies The Aldermen. Are you present and well prepared?" (The Aldermen rise and bow.) "His Accuracy The Clerk. Are you present and well prepared?" (The Clerk rises and bows.) "His Probity The Keeper-of-the-Treasure. Are you present and well prepared?" (The Keeper-of-the-Treasure rises and bows.) "Your Excellency! The officers are all present, in their proper places and ready to listen to your pleasure."

Mayor: "Fellow Suppliers what is God's greatest gift to Man's creature comforts?"

Members: (in unison) "Fire!"

Mayor: "You speak truly. How may it best be created, sustained and utilized?"

Members: (in unison) "By Gas."

Mayor: "Once more you speak truly and to the cause of Gas is our Gild dedicated.

"Your Reflected Excellencies The Wardens! We have now most haply come to the time when you are to present the new members from your respective Wards. Will you thus proceed to present such new members in the order of their seniority."

The Wardens then call the names of the new members in proper order, Masters first and Villeins last, each new member advancing to the platform as his name is called. New members are lined in groups according to classes facing the Mayor.

Mayor: (Addressing candidates) "Before you can be admitted to membership in this Gild it is fitting that you should be examined in order to satisfy all the Brethren that you are well qualified to become our Brethren."

"Your Somewhat less Excellency will you now examine the candidates and satisfy yourself as to their qualifications."

The Senior Warden examines the Candidates.

Senior Warden: "Excellency! I have followed your suggestion and have subjected each candidate to a thorough and grilling test. I am happy to report to you that all have passed successfully and that I am satisfied that they are all well qualified."

Mayor: "Your Somewhat less Excellency! I am well pleased with your report, and with the thoroughness of your work. I extend to you the thanks and plaudits of The Gild."

The Mayor then addresses the candidates.

"It is with pleasure we welcome you to our fellowship. Since gas was first turned on to bless mankind and lighten his burdens it has been made possible only by the work, handicraft, skill and diligence of worthy men such as are now a part of the fellowship to which you have been admitted and to which you will from now on contribute of your experience and knowledge.

In all of life's relationships and activities there must be created, fostered, encouraged and guarded high standards of honor and performance. In any group of men there must be those who appreciating these standards seek to further them and preserve them by precept and conduct.

The brethren of this Gild united for such purposes deem it wise that until one has demonstrated his adherence to these ideals for a period of at least ten years he be not eligible for membership in this Gild.

You having worthily served the cause for the prescribed time and having been deemed worthy of admission are welcomed to all the rights and privileges of this Gild and are expected to do your full share in the advancement of the purposes of this Gild.

That you may have knowledge of these purposes and that your resolution to advance

them may be strengthened by open acknowledgment of your resolution I shall now administer unto you the Gild Oath;

Do you in the presence of the Great Council and the Brethren here assembled most solemnly affirm that you will do constantly everything in your power of which your conscience will approve to influence the greater use of gas?

(Candidates raise left hands and answer in unison "We do")

Do you affirm that to those who place their trust in you, you will be honest and loyal, appreciating the confidence placed in you, is entrusted not only to you but also to your honorable brothers of this Gild who would be injured were you through lack of diligence or integrity to fail in this respect.

(Candidates raise left hands and answer in unison "We do")

Do you affirm that to your Brethren of this Gild you will impart upon request, or voluntarily, should you deem it wise, any information which is seemly to your various relationships and not given to you in confidence, which will help them in earning their livelihoods, or in serving this Gild or its objects.

(Candidates raise their left hands and answer in unison "We do")

Do you affirm that at all times you will stand ready to aid any needy Brother of this Gild to the extent of your ability.

(Candidates raise their left hands and answer in unison "We do")

Do you affirm that at all times and in all places you will stand ready to rally to the support of this Gild if it is attacked, maligned, discredited or its aims, objects or existence criticized.

(The candidates will raise their left hands and answer in unison "We do")

Having administered the Oath The Mayor shakes each new member by the left hand (nearest the heart) and congratulates him upon his becoming a member of the Gild.

Mayor: Your Somewhat Less Excellency The Senior Warden it puzzles me much why Gas, this most excellent fuel, is not used in greater volume. Have you any thoughts on this momentous problem?"

Senior Warden: It seems Your Excellency that the

operation of all the appliances, skills, gins and substances produced with such skill and pains by the Suppliers of our Gild is in the hands of a rabble of less intellect than we are blessed with, often called The Operators of The Gas Industry. These operators often fail entirely to follow the advice of our Members having skill, do not install the gins best suited to their various situations, do not keep the public fully advised as to the excellence and safety of our appliances, and in many cases disregard the merit of our substances. And still worse Your Excellency, this rabble keeps brow beating our Members declaring that the price of this is too high, or that should be done for less or that they have not in hand the money to follow the advice of our skilled members. Alas the question is how do they manage to sell the volume they do. Not why they do not sell more. Egad the product must be good."

Mayor: "Your Somewhat Less Excellency Your words cause my heart to hang heavy, as the evidence of their truth is apparent on all sides. Let us see if something can not be done with this rabble. Seek council among the Brethren and report your findings to me."

Senior Warden: "Your Excellency's command shall be obeyed." (Turning to Alderman at left)
"Your Middling Excellency! What in your opinion should be our first step to increase the volume of gas used?"

1st Alderman: "Your Somewhat Less Excellency! All the gas operators should be asphyxiated and we should start anew."

Senior Warden: "A drastic but excellent suggestion." (Turning to centre Alderman) "And you Your Middling Excellency. What say you?"

2nd Alderman: "Your Somewhat Less Excellency! My thought is that asphyxiation by Gas is far too painless a death. Let the Gas Operators be shot."

Senior Warden: "Well spoken. It is not meet that these beings who play such havoc with our ideals glide out of life without anguish or time to realize their going or why." (Turning to Alderman on Right.) "Your Middling Excellency! Dost agree that all Gas Operators should be shot?"

3rd Alderman: "Your Somewhat Less Excellency! I do not agree. It is still far too painless a death. As these Gas Operators torture us and let the work of our brains and hands go for naught through lack of use, let us exterminate them slowly, with exquisite long drawn out pain, by the use of that which they fear most. Let us roast them as in a barbecue in front of an Electric Grill and as their writhings wane toward their all-too-soon demise let us recite to them the cost of current and the much lesser cost of the same torture by Gas. Oh! excellent spectacle."

Senior Warden: "Bravo Your Middling Excellency. How worthily thou speakest. I shall at once acquaint His Excellency The Mayor with thy suggestion. Truly thou art an artist."
(Turning to The Mayor)
"Your Excellency! The Brethren agree that the first step to increase the use of Gas is to exterminate the Gas Operators. Nowsoever it took a deal of thinking to determine how best to obtain this much to be desired goal. The most pleasing suggestion was that they be slowly roasted before an Electric Grill in spite of the excessive cost."

Mayor: "Your Somewhat Less Excellency! Your report pleases me much. Seldom has our Gild produced such an excellent thought. An encomium to him who fathered this idea. But me thinks that the thought was not carried far enough. To roast the Gas Operators is good but why use the comparatively low temperature of an Electric Grill while we still have our tongues in our heads? Let us lash them with words of truth, burning sarcasm and blistering ridicule."
"Your General Utility The Sergeant-at-Arms! Arise and face the Fount of Wisdom."

Sergeant-at-Arms: "Your Excellency I am at your service."

Mayor: "Proceed at once to the Halls of The Gas Operators. Bring them before me by any means at your disposal. Be careful of the amount of the discounts you offer and keep the entertainment reasonably low. Be gone and make haste for my tongue even now burns within my mouth and I smack my lips thinking of the pleasure before us."

Sergeant-at-Arms: "Your Excellency! Your every

command will be obeyed."
The Sergeant-at-Arms leaves the room.

Mayor: "Brethren, this day shall be memorable in our annals for this day we shall take the first step to spread and increase the use of Gas." (Sergeant-at-Arms enters) "What ho! are the operators already here? Are you sure you have not promised them too much pleasure?"

Sergeant-at-Arms: "Alas Your Excellency the Gas Operators could not be reached."

Mayor: "Why not sirrah?"

Sergeant-at-Arms: "They were in conference and could see no one today."

Mayor: "Brethren our desires must wait but be ye each and every one vigilant and diligent. The day must come when these gas operators will be elsewhere than on the golf courses or in conference. Let each of us watch his chance and right properly roast each and every Gas Operator when occasion permits."

Then follows the usual order of business. The Mayor will use the full title of each officer when he addresses him. On completion of the full business of the meeting the closing ritual will be followed."

Mayor: "Your Accuracy The Clerk! Is there any further business to be brought before the session?"

The Clerk: "Your Excellency! I have here a petition that has just been placed upon my table."

Mayor: "Read the petition Your Accuracy that all present may become familiar with its contents."

The Clerk: "Your Excellency! The petition is as follows: To his Excellency The Mayor, Officers and members of The Gild of Ancient Suppliers of Gas Appliances, Skills, Gins and Substances greetings:

We the members of the City Council of the City of Lessthamore in the State of Duress headed by our Mayor the Hon. I. M. Hopeful do humbly lay before you our dire need of gas service.

Due to the lack of modern gas generating and storage equipment, suitable distribution mains and services, meters and up-to-date appliances we are forced to make use of the

highly unsatisfactory and costly electric current that is being forced upon us.

This condition is fast getting beyond human endurance, there is unhappiness and dissatisfaction in our homes, our people are weary of oppression and unless something can be speedily done to make gas available in our homes we fear a dire catastrophe will result.

We therefore humbly and fervently pray and petition you to give our situation consideration and if possible build for us a proper gas plant and put it in operation in our city.

To all of which we affix our signatures and the great seal of the city.

I. M. Hopeful - Mayor

A. Runner
Sol. Ution
Grant. More
C. Mee

Councilmen

Mayor: "Indeed Your Accuracy this petition should have our immediate and undivided attention. But does it not seem strange that this situation has not been brought to our attention by the Operator?"

Clerk: "No Your Excellency they are probably all asleep."

Mayor: "Your General Utility The Sergeant-at-Arms."

Sergeant-at-Arms: "At Your Service Your Excellency."

Mayor: "Your General Utility circulate among the Brethren and bring to me with full equipment A Figure Outer with great skill. Three Suppliers of Gins and Substances and for fear there may be a riot select carefully and in secret two Suppliers of Appliances."

The Sergeant-at-Arms circulates among the Brethren and returns with stipulated Brethren. These form in an arc around the platform facing the Mayor.

Mayor: "Make haste and prepare the necessary plans and specifications for a complete gas plant for Lessthanmore. Be right careful in the preparation of the specifications so that all our Suppliers of Gins may have an equal chance.

The Figureouter then makes several passes with a large slide

rule and puts figures on a sheet of paper.

1st Member: "Your Excellency I hand you herewith the plans and specifications."

Mayor: (Looking at plans) "Bravo! Your work has been well done. We can proceed with haste."
(Turning to next three members)
"Are you Suppliers of Gins and Substances?"

3 Members: (in unison) "Yes Your Excellency."

Mayor: "Ah it is well. Take these plans and specifications and construct in accordance with them a proper and complete gas plant in Lessthanmore."

The three members rush out of the room.

Mayor: (Turning to the two remaining members)
"Are you Suppliers of Gas Appliances?"

2 Members: (in unison) "We are Your Excellency."

Mayor: "This too is well. Hasten to Lessthanmore and see that sufficient and proper appliances are installed on the services that are even now being. When your work is completed return to me here. Make haste away."

(The two Suppliers of Appliances rush out and nearly collide with the three Suppliers of Gins rushing in.)

Mayor: "What ho! Sergeant-at-Arms quell the disturbance."

Sergeant-at-Arms: "Your Excellency it is but your three Suppliers of Gins and Substances returning from Lessthanmore to report on the success of their project."

Mayor: (To the three Suppliers) "Lets have your report."

1 Spokesman for the Three: "Your Excellency the plans were terrible and the specifications entirely wrong but through dint of perseverance to say nothing of much ingenuity on our part the work has been successfully and satisfactorily completed and by contributing to the annual campaign fund we have been nearly paid in full."

Mayor: "You have done well. Me thinks you must all be Democrats."

The two Suppliers of Appliances rush in followed by a bell hop with a telegram. The Sergeant-at-Arms stops the bell hop and takes the telegram.

Mayor: "What ho! Sergeant-at-Arms! Quell all this confusion."

Sergeant-at-Arms: "Your Excellency a telegram for you."

Mayor: "Hand it to his Accuracy so that he may read it aloud that we may all become acquainted with its contents."

The Clerk takes telegram and reads:

"Your Excellency the message is as follows:

Lessthanmore, Duress, U. S. A.

W. S. Guitteau
Statler Hotel
Cleveland, Ohio

Plant all satisfactorily completed. Send force to operate.
Make haste.

I. M. Hopeful
Mayor

Mayor: "Your Middling Excellencies the Aldermen."

The Aldermen: "Yes Your Excellency."

Mayor: "And what sort of plea is this? Is it not enough that we should build these plants without having to operate them. Egad me thinks that perhaps great good might come to our Industry if the Suppliers controlled also the operation. Your Middling Excellencies what answer should we make to this telegram?"

Centre Alderman: "The hour waxes late and even though we have toiled through the heat of the day we are willing to undertake the operation of this plant but we would call to your attention the fact that by far the most difficult part of the project is completed. The plant has been skillfully designed, speedily produced, and carefully erected. It is fully provided with the most modern and efficient appliances. Into it has gone the best of our brains and ingenuity. Surely a body with less intellect than ours can successfully operate it if they will but follow our advice."

Mayor: "Indeed that is correct your Middling Excellency, but to whom do you suggest we turn this simple job of operation over to."

Centro Alderman: "Your Excellency to none other than the Gas Operators. Even with their limited brains and low intellects they can surely cope with this situation. I suggest that we refer his Honor, the Mayor of Less-thanmore to any one of the numerous Vice Presidents among the Operators."

Mayor: "Your Middling Excellency! Your words are wise and we shall follow your sound council."
"Your Accuracy The Clerk."

The Clerk: "At Your service Excellency."

Mayor: "Forthwith summon a messenger and dispatch the following telegram to the Mayor of Less-thanmore. Your wire received stop The Gild of Ancient Supplers of Gas Appliances, Skills, Oins and Substances have heard and granted your petition stop Our members have designed, produced and constructed for you the best gas plant possible to build stop We have had installed on your mains the most modern and efficient gas appliances stop We have gone as far as we can go stop We must now turn you over to the mercy of the Gas Operators stop We suggest that you petition them for an operator stop Now that your plant is completed any one of them can run it. Your General Utility The Sergeant-at-Arms."

Sergeant-at-Arms: "At your service Excellency."

Mayor: "Bid the Brethren arise."

Sergeant-at-Arms: "Hear ye! Hear ye! Hear ye! Supplers arise and salute His Excellency The Mayor, The Great Council and The Wardens."

Members and guests arise and stand as when the Mayor and Great Council entered.

Mayor: "Brethren and Guests it is proper that we should now appease the gnawings of the inner man. I bid you one and all to gather round the board, drink to the health of our Gild and sup with me."

Then follows the dinner. At end of dinner the Mayor delivers the closing speech as follows:

Mayor: "Brethren and Guests, this has been a momentous day for our Gild. We have accomplished much and made noble strides towards the fruition of our aims and objectives.

As the shadows lengthen toward the east and the setting sun sinks slowly below the western horizon let me wish you health, wealth and contentment during the year that lies ahead.

May you each and every one be faithful to your various trusts, keep always before you the aims and objects of our Gild and may I have the pleasure of greeting you all at our next General Session.

Convey to the Brethren that are absent my best wishes and extend to them for me the left hand of fellowship.

Gentlemen we bid you one and all a very good night."

From the very start the objects of the Gild have been

1. To produce more harmonious relations between those who sell and those who buy.
2. To create a feeling of extreme confidence in those who buy for those who sell.
3. To have an organization each member of which would feel a definite interest in every other member and be ready at all times to assist and help in every way possible any other member of the Gild who might need help, aid or assistance.

The first annual Wassail of the Gild was held at the Statler Hotel in Cleveland, Ohio in October 1937. At the time of the convention of the American Gas Association only Suppliers were invited to this Wassail, but never-the-less a few Burghers crashed the gate.

At this Wassail the Ritual was presented for the first time, by the officers of the Gild in full regalia, which had been obtained from a nearby costumers.

Although this presentation of the Ritual was rather ragged it must have been humorous because it was greeted with much laughter and applause by the audience present.

At the Wassail which followed the guests were all dressed in chefs aprons and hats and sat down on a large

U shaped table. A typical old English dinner consisting mostly of roast beef and boiled potatoes was served.

This meeting was acclaimed a huge success so that the Gild was well on its way to a bright future.

On December 29th, 1937 the Gild had a total membership of fifty-five and a balance in the treasury of \$483.92.

1938

During the year 1938, the Great Council had numerous meetings. Complete minutes, of which, are in the files of the clerks office.

The principal accomplishment was the adoption of the Gild emblem in the form of a lapel button, which is supposed to be worn by Suppliers at all times but especially at all formal Gild meetings.

During this year the Great Council also established the name of "Side Bar" for the periodical letters the Mayor sends to the membership.

The first membership cards were designed and mailed to the Suppliers (74 of these cards were sent out on the first mailing) and the first brochure was produced and sent to the membership so that each Supplier could have a copy of the constitution and by-laws.

The annual convention of the A.G.A. was held at Atlantic City, N. J. and on October 10th the Gild held its second annual feast at The Hotel Madison.

This was the year in which the number of men signifying their desire to attend the feast expanded so rapidly that it was necessary to change the proposed location of the affair from the Dutch Room to the solarium on the roof. There were in all 110 Suppliers and Burghers in attendance.

At this feast the Ritual was presented in an abbreviated form and was well and hilariously received by those present. Its presentation took slightly longer than was anticipated, making the services of some of the hired entertainers unnecessary.

The speaker of the evening was Jimmie Gheen, who holding forth in a monks robe made his usual hit with the audience.

In December, James H. Moore, Clerk and W. H. Guitteau, Mayor, sent a letter of Christmas greetings to every member of the Gild, to which, was attached a list of eighty-four candidates approved for membership in the Gild.

1939

In 1939 the Gild "Oscar" was designed. This "Oscar" is a bronze of the Gas House Terrier seated on a bench with his shovel and tamp rod beside him. He was immortalized in Walton Clark's poem and symbolized the grit, reliability and "never let 'em down" spirit of the gas business through the years. It is the first serious contribution of the Gild toward its first object "To increase the use of gas".

It was decided by the Great Council to present this "Oscar" to R. M. Conner in recognition of his outstanding work of the A. G. A. Laboratories and the improvement of gas appliances which resulted.

In a poll of the membership carried on by mail, from June 26, 1939 to August 24, 1939, the membership overwhelmingly voted in favor of inviting Herman Russell to honorary Supplershship, and to attend our feast.

By October of this year the membership of the Gild had risen to about one hundred and fifty.

At the business session on October 10th the following slate of officers was elected:

Mayor - William S. Guitteau
Senior Warden - C. Edwin Bartlett
Clerk - James H. Moore
Keeper-of-the-Treasure - Joseph A. Mulcare
Aldermen - W. Griffin Gribbol
 Joseph A. Messenger
 Carl Sorby

Our award of the "Oscar" to Ray Conner in General Session was well received and definitely placed our Gild as an earnest and serious co-operating factor in the Industry.

The feast was a success - from the sound effects, a howling success. Corrigan was not on the Committee, but he might have been. If any of the plans worked the right way the Committee would have been pleased to know of it. Nobody seemed to mind, however, and joy was unconfined.

The Ritual was possibly the worst done ever, but, again, the gang seemed to like it. Strangely enough it got strict attention and had a soothing effect on the crowd so that our serious moments were respected.

For Christmas for 1939 the Gild was fortunate in being able to send to the membership the first of a series of Gild Christmas cards that have been so successfully designed by Mrs. Edith Bartlett Ricker.

1940

In June of 1940, the Keeper-of-the-Treasure received a letter from one of our members. Two paragraphs of which follow:

"I haven't sent a check to the Gild because of the fact that yours is the first letter of any kind other than an invoice that I have had in months. There may have been meetings of the Gild in the interim or during the year but I have no information on them and I cannot see any great advantage to the Gild membership for I have yet to participate in a meeting. I have never been advised of any meetings or how the Gild functions as a whole.

Maybe I am off on the wrong foot on this but naturally a fellow doesn't like to send checks out just for the sake of sending them and if I have a misunderstanding or misconception of the operation of the Gild I wish you would put me straight - but unless there is more to the Gild than just that of sending a check to headquarters once a year, I think it would be best that I drop out."

This letter caused the Great Council to realize that more Gild activity should be developed and the membership regularly advised in regard to it. Thus, the idea of Gild breakfasts at all local Gas conventions was developed and put into effect. These Gild breakfasts have become head-lights in Gild activities.

In August of 1940 it had been decided that the annual Feast would be held on Monday, October 7th at The Hotel Madison, Atlantic City and work started a unique souvenir consisting of a lighted lamp post in the center of a copper ash tray to be placed on the dining tables before the guests entered the dining room.

Having to some extent profited by our experience at the 1939 Feast in The Pennsylvania Hotel, New York City the Gild reserved the entire mezzanine of The Hotel Madison for the 1940 Feast and Wassail and made every effort to get the membership and the invited guests to file in advance their intention of attending.

In spite of this, however, we were faced again with an overflow attendance. Never-the-less everything, with the exception of the souvenir lamp post ash trays went through with reasonable smoothness.

As the manufacturers of the ash trays had not taken due care in packing them for shipment to Atlantic City, seventy-five per cent arrived in broken condition. These, however, were replaced by an emergency shipment packed properly, which arrived in time for the Feast.

All in all the 1940 Feast made another big hit even though a lot of Suppliers and Burghers retained the thought that hotel walls are made of rubber and can stretch to take a last minute rush. Thus the seating was a bit close.

As the diners entered the darkened Dining Room, the little gleams from the Lampost Ash Trays at each place gave the effect of a night flight over a big city.

The Ritual which had undergone another abridgement was again well received.

The address given by the speaker of the evening was so serious that it was not well received and his name had been lost entirely from the files. Never-the-less the Feast was unanimously voted a huge success and the year ended with your Gild in good shape. All bills paid and one thousand dollars in the bank.

1941

In June of 1941 the Great Council voted that a committee be appointed to study the subject of what might be called the serious purposes of the Gild. Thus the following committee was appointed:

Watson E. Derwent
Joseph A. Mulcare
Frank C. Packer
Carl A. Schlegel, Chairman

On June 18, 1941, Carl Schlegel, chairman of this committee sent a letter to each Supplier outlining the thoughts of the subject as follows:

#1 - Oscar Presentation at the A.G.A. Convention.

The presentation of the Oscar at the A.G.A. Convention to an outstanding member of the gas industry, when and if outstanding achievement justified, has already been established as a worthy objective of the Gild. Two men have already been so honored.

Have you any suggestions as to whom we should present the next Oscar?

#2 - The Basic Worthy Objective of the Gild.

It is recognized that the Gild should have a basic worthy objective to be carried out to the extent that the Gild's financial position permits. The following are suggested and your choice is requested.

- A. - Aid to needy Suppliers.
- B. - College aid to Supplier's child; scholarship or loan.
- C. - Donation for college research with results reported at annual dinner.
- D. - Aid to United States war relief agency.
- E. - Aid to British war relief directed to British gas industry.
- F. - Your suggestion for another worthy objective.

By September, 1941 the Great Council had decided this year to have a Wassail but no Victuals, in other words a cocktail party, from 5 to 7 Monday afternoon, October 20th at The Hotel Madison in Atlantic City, New Jersey. It was decided to have invitations as usual but with a flexibility that would permit us to issue them virtually up to the start of the Wassail.

The Gild session was held at The Hotel Madison on

Monday, October 20 at 3:30 P.M. At which session the following slate of officers was elected:

Mayor - C. Edwin Bartlett
Senior Warden - Joseph A. Mulcare
Clerk - A. E. Lindquist
Keeper-of-the-Treasure - Glenn H. Niles
Aldermen - Frank C. Packer
Joseph A. Messenger
E. Carl Sorby

The session was followed at 5 P.M. with the Wassail, which was attended by nearly 350 Burghers and Suppliers in the Gild hall.

The Wassail idea proved to be the right answer because all who attended had what they had hoped for at previous Feasts. Plenty of time to greet friends, chat here and there, sing or listen to some real good professional talent. The guests came when they pleased and left when they wanted and there was plenty of room.

On the departure each guest got an appropriately labelled Lucite letter opener or paper knife.

It was hard to get attention to serious matters in the midst of the revels but time was found to welcome less, rather than more formally our new Honorary member, Major Alexander Forward.

Upon retiring from office William Gitteau, the Gilds first Mayor, was presented with a seal ring. It was naturally the seal of the Gild of Ancient Suppliers of Gas Appliances, Skills, Gins, Accessories and Substances.

The following is copied from the greeting which was sent to the Suppliers in Christmas 1941. It is included here because the sentiment is still very pertinent.

A CHRISTMAS REVERIE

Outside our Gild Hall the dark but helps the panes throw back the brilliance of the great fireplace within as the Yule log crackles and snaps in its flames.

Once more at Christmastide we leave the world without and enter in to join in revelry, repledge friendships and pray again that Peace on Earth may come even though now it seems so far, so very far away.

Our symbolic forbears often had resort to the cheer of the Gild Hall and the companionship of their crafts to help forget the threats and

turmoil of their times. Their enemies were close upon them. Their coastal watch towers were always manned and alert.

No matter how our Gild may serve our Country, be it only to cheer and inspire our Suppliers at their tasks, let it now banish all thoughts save those of Christmas as we pause for at least a clock's tick to broadcast the old

CHRISTMAS WISH

from

Suppliers Everywhere to Suppliers Anywhere

1942

During the year 1942, the idea of the Gild breakfasts really took hold. At Boston during the New England Gas Association meetings Alec Wolfe, who was the Warden of the Northeast, had twenty-four Suppliers attend such a breakfast.

Joe Mulcare, who was then Senior Warden, had a similar successful breakfast during the meeting of the Southern Gas Association.

The first amendments to the constitution were passed at the annual meeting this year.

These two amendments made the past Mayors members of the Great Council.

Originally the A.G.A. decided to have the 1942 convention in San Francisco, but due to the restrictions on transportation it was decided to have a very much abbreviated session at The LaSalle Hotel in Chicago.

On October 5th the annual session of the Gild was held in the Gild room at The LaSalle Hotel at 4:45 P.M., at which time the amendments to the constitution were formally passed.

Jack Fagan, who was chairman of the Wassail committee, had everything in readiness for the formal opening of the Gild hall at the scheduled time.

Unfortunately, the gas men talked so long that Jack and his mates were forty-five minutes late in obtaining the room. This delay didn't, however, dampen the spirits of the two hundred guests that joined in the festivities.

Jack Fagan and his home team of Suppliers had everything set with tricky scenery, fancy bibs, and a Wisconsin cheese bar.

As usual a Christmas card was sent to the membership.

1943

As it looked as though the Distribution Conference, which was held in Cincinnati, Ohio on April 29th and 30th would be the only large gas gathering to be held in 1943, the Gild arranged to have a so called Wassaillette at The Hotel Netherland Plaza, Cincinnati, Ohio on Thursday, April 29, 1943. At this Wassaillette it was decided for the first time Suppliers could pay for their Burgher guests tickets.

At any rate, the Wassaillette was a huge success and no one seemed to care who paid for what.

Along about the first of July the headquarters of A.G.A. advised that there would be an abbreviated convention of the association in St. Louis in October. The dates finally decided on were the 11th, 12th and 13th.

Unfortunately, these dates conflicted with the World Series, which as you may remember, was held in St. Louis that year. Thus the A.G.A. Convention dates were moved up to the 26th, 27th and 28th. The Gild Wassail being held on Wednesday, the 27th in the Crystal Room of The Hotel Jefferson from five to eight P.M.

At the Jefferson we were unable to obtain a Gild room but the management screened off a portion of the mezzanine so that without any extra charge we had a very satisfactory meeting place for the Suppliers.

A session of the Gild was held, at which time, the entire slate which was then in office was re-elected.

Again the Wassail was a huge success and was attended by a few over three hundred Suppliers and Burghers. As usual, this number was far in excess of those who had expressed their intention to attend, so that the Wassail and Vitals ran rather low at one period but was quickly reinforced.

The report of the Keeper-of-the-Treasure, submitted to the Great Council on December 16, 1943 showed a balance of \$2,375.00. Once again Mrs. Ricker designed the Gild a very attractive Christmas card, which was sent to the membership.

1944

In December 1943, A. E. Lindquist, who had just been elected for another term, left us for the Higher Gild.

The Great Council asked John VanNorden to serve out Al's term. To this John graciously agreed.

The Great Council met on December 16, 1943 in New York City. At which meeting Glenn Niles, the Keeper-of-the-Treasure, insisted that there be instituted an annual audit of the books by a certified accountant. As this should be a routine matter at the end of the term, the Great Council voted to put this into effect.

At this meeting it was also decided in the future Suppliers attending Gild functions and not wearing the Gild emblem should be fined one dollar each.

The seventh annual birthday party of the Gild was held at the Benjamin Franklin Hotel on Monday, evening, May 1 before the opening of the Pennsylvania Gas Association meeting.

The following amendment to the By-Laws was proposed during this year:

"That Article 2, Section 1, be amended by inserting after the words "Honorary Members" and before the words "shall be Fifteen Dollars" the words "and former members of the Gild" so that the amended section shall read "The Initiation Fee Payable by all new members except Honorary Members and former members of the Gild shall be Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00)".

In 1944 the A.G.A. did not hold a convention. As the Gild's founding fathers with prescience begot of prophecy wrote the Constitution omitting the Annual Session of the A.G.A. So your Constitution is intact and also your By-laws.

About this time it was brought to the attention of the Great Council that many Suppliers came into the Gild without the benefit of ritual. It was therefore felt that the following form should be used:

The Mayor to those Suppliers who have been admitted since our last Convocation:

"Brethren, it is with pleasure we welcome you to our fellowship. Since gas was first turned on to bless mankind and lighten his burdens it has been made possible only by the work, handicraft, skill and diligence of worthy men such as are now a part of the fellowship to which you have been admitted and to which you will from now on contribute of your experience and knowledge.

In all of life's relationships and activities there must be created, fostered, encouraged and guarded high standards of honor and performance. In any group of men there must be those who appreciating these standards seek to further them and preserve them by precept and conduct.

These brethren of this Gild united for such purposes deem it wise that until one has demonstrated his adherence to these ideals for a period of at least ten years, he be not eligible for membership in this Gild.

You have worthily served the cause for the prescribed time and having been deemed worthy of admission, are welcomed to all the rights and privileges of this Gild and are expected to do your full share in the advancement of the purposes of this Gild.

That you may have knowledge of these purposes and that your resolution to advance them may be strengthened by open acknowledgment of your resolution, I shall now administer unto you the Gild Oath. Say your name and repeat after me: --

"In the presence of the Great Council and the Brethren here assembled, I most solemnly affirm that I will do constantly everything in my power and of which my conscience will approve to influence the greater use of gas.

To those who place their trust in me I shall be honest and loyal, appreciating the confidence placed in me as entrusted not only to me but also to my honorable brothers of this Gild who would be injured were I through lack of diligence or integrity to fail in this respect.

To my Brethren of this Gild I shall impart upon request or voluntarily, should I deem it wise, any information which is seemly to my various relationships and not given to me in confidence, which will help them in earning their livelihoods, or in serving this Gild or its objects.

I will at all times stand ready to aid any needy Brother of this Gild to the extent of my ability.

At all times and in all places I will stand ready to rally to the support of this Gild if it is attacked, maligned, discredited, or its aims, objects or existence criticized."

It was also felt that it would be well to fully explain the significance of the Gild Emblem, to all new Suppliers using the following form:

THE GILD EMBLEM

The full armorial emblem of the Gild consists of a square shield quartered.

In the dexter chief or upper left quarter appears a gas holder - symbolic of the "Gins" used in gas distribution and supplied by Suppliers. "Gin" is a contraction of "Engine" and means a mechanical device. The word, once in common use, is now found only in "Cotton Gin".

The Sinister chief quarter, upper right hand, carries a sliderule crossed with a Test-tube to remind us of the "Skills" exercised by qualified Suppliers in advising the Gas Industry on its many problems of administration, construction, operation, and in the legal field.

In the Dexter Basequarter, lower left hand, there is a crossed Pick and Shovel emblematic of the Substances, raw and processed, furnished the Gas Business by Suppliers.

The Sinister Base, lower right quarter, shows a Gas Meter, as one of the Accessories which Suppliers provide for the Gas Industry.

Finally in Fess Point, Center, is charged the Old Gas Street Lamp - to stand for the utilization devices - Appliances - which Suppliers make so that Gas may be of service to mankind.

The Crest is the Luminous Flame of a Batswing Gas Burner, the first light furnished the world from a central earthly plant and whose rays lighted the development of all other sources of light and energy.

Below the Shield is the Motto:

"Nihil Sine Laboribus Nostris"

Neeheel Seenay Laboriboos No stress - which Latin wording is "Nothing without our Labors" or, freely translated, "Without our knowledge, service and products there would be no gas made, distributed, sold or used".

This statement, strictly true, is not made to impress the Burghers with their dependence upon what

the Gild represents, but rather to remind each Supplier of his responsibility for and to the object of his Gild's first loyalty - the Gas Industry.

The Simple or Field Emblem is the Head of the Old Gas Street Lamp which, while admittedly old fashioned, serves a reminder of certain virtues, equally old fashioned, which the Suppliers through their Gild uphold by precept, and it is hoped, by example. These are set forth in the "Charge to and obligation of, New Suppliers".

1945

This year started out with the Gild having a membership of nearly two hundred.

In 1945 the annual birthday party was held at the Old Meridian Club in Philadelphia, on May 15th under the able direction of John Wynne, who was Warden of the Delaware and Chesapeake Waters.

This was the year in which the Great Council passed a measure permitting any Master Supplier to wear a Gild Emblem set with a gem cut diamond or white sapphire.

On October 10, 1945, the Gild held a dinner at the Engineers Club in New York City at 32 West Fortieth Street in honor of Alexander Forward upon his retirement from the American Gas Association. Thirty-five Suppliers and some well chosen Burghers attended this dinner.

At this dinner Alexander Forward was awarded the Gild Oscar. The citation said in part "He united and kept united the Gas Industry - Utilities and Purveyors of Gas Appliances, Skills, Gins, Accessories and Substances and led a united industry to increasing public acceptance through service".

In 1945 at the A.G.A. Convention in New York City, the Gild's Annual Session was held at the Engineers Club, 32 West Fortieth Street. The following slate of officers was elected:

Mayor - Joe A. Mulcare
Senior Warden - Frank C. Packer
Aldermen - Joseph A. Messenger
 Wayne R. Smith
 E. Carl Sorby
Clerk - John VanNorden
Keeper-of-the-Treasure - Glenn H. Niles

No feast or wassail was held this year.

1946

The office of Master of Revels was created at the beginning of 1946. The duties of "Master of Revels" were manifold and included not only the organization and running of the annual Feast and Wassail but also the notifying of the Suppliers of all Gild breakfasts to be held at the various Gas meetings throughout the country.

The Gild Breakfasts during 1946 were well attended. They were held at all of the various Gas meetings. Suppliers were notified of these breakfasts well in advance by postal notices from the office of the "Master of Revels".

The annual Birthday Party was held at a Breakfast at Galen Hall, Wernersville, Pa., May 22nd. This was in conjunction with The Pennsylvania Gas Association meeting. The Gild also had a cottage at this gathering.

At a special meeting held at The Meridian Club in Philadelphia in the summer of 1946, P.M. Ed Bartlett was presented a watch fob with a jeweled seal of The Gild on one side and a seal of the Rotary Club on the reverse. This was done by The Gild as a token of appreciation of the untiring efforts Ed Bartlett had put forth for the Gild.

The Annual Wassail was held at The Hotel Madison at Atlantic City on Monday, October 7th. A total of three hundred Suppliers and Burghers attended this function.

This was the first Wassail at which badges were used to identify those attending. The proper colors were used on these badges, that is White for Masters, Yellow for Yeomen, Orange for Apprentices, Red for Villeins and Black for Burghers.

At the Annual Session of The Gild this year the degree of sage was established.

In 1946 Alderman Sorby proposed a well thought out procedure to be followed at all Gild functions. Even though this idea was not acclaimed by the majority of the membership, the suggestions follow:

PROPOSED SUPPLIER PROGRAM

- I. The annual feast to be held at Atlantic City, this being definitely a tradition of the Suppliers and should be perpetuated.
- II. One invitation be extended to the Burghers for each Supplier member. The invitation should be extended to the top flight executive of a utility; and if, for some reason or other, he cannot attend, let him decide who in his organ-

ization should attend. Knowing that every Supplier will not be in attendance, it is possible to hand out some last minute invitations at the convention.

A. Purpose

1. To keep the representative feast at a very high level and to create the impression to fraternitize with a Supplier who has proved his right to be a Supplier by virtue of his service record to the industry.
2. To command more respect, not only within the gas industry and its Burghers, but from the Suppliers themselves.

B. Program

1. Cocktail Hour - furnishing all Burghers and Suppliers with a cap and bib, Supplier bibs to be properly identified according to his classification.
2. Proper Reception Committee - the hotel management to be responsible for taking of the invitations at the door to eliminate embarrassment on the part of any Supplier.
3. Music - strollers in Old English costume.
4. The Feast.
5. All officers of the Gild in proper regalia for atmosphere.
6. A very brief ceremony put on by the Gild officers, not to exceed fifteen minutes.
7. A brief talk on the crest and what the various symbols on the crest allude (this talk to be developed by past Mayor Ed Bartlett and given by the past Mayor each succeeding feast).
8. Recognition of the past Mayor and meeting adjourned.

III. Crests to be made and given to each warden together with the talk to which the symbols on the crest allude. Lamp posts made and given to each warden.

PROGRAM FOR SUPPLIER ACTIVITY BEYOND THE NATIONAL ACTIVITY

- I. Breakfast Meetings to be called at every regional or state convention of the gas industry by the warden.
- II. Time and Place for Breakfast made known to all Suppliers. The Gild officers to mail a notice of such a breakfast meeting to all Suppliers of the Gild.
- III. Purpose.
 - A. Definitize a program for smaller conventions.
 - B. Place in the hands of the warden the proper symbols of the Gild, namely the crest and the lamp posts.
- IV. Breakfast Program.
 - A. Warden to handle the breakfast.
 - B. Warden to talk on the crest and the symbols they allude in addition to reading the objectives of The Gild as produced in the constitution and by-laws.
 - C. Introduction of officers of the Gild who may be in attendance at any one of these breakfasts.
 - D. Brief message from the Gild officers of the Gild in attendance, if any.
 - E. General fraternitizing and visitation.

SUGGESTIONS

Feast to be traditional.

Breakfasts to be a "must".

No warden will be permitted to set up his program according to his own ideas.

Gild membership to be held to an absolute minimum (200). Gild members in the future must be of the highest type possible to attain.

Suppliers who have retired from business, and whose retirement can be definitely established and proven, should enjoy the rights of a paid-up membership and the privilege of attending breakfasts and other Gild activities if they should happen to be in the right place at the right time.

The spirit of the Gild and its objectives should be further amplified. It should be promoted on the

basis of fraternity. We should seek no measure of publicity.

We should promote the general welfare of each and every member.

We should develop a feeling of respect and honor among each Supplier. Gild membership is something to be cherished. Gild membership is representative of an extremely small and select group.

The Gild of Ancient Suppliers should not indulge in any promotional activities.

The Gild of Ancient Suppliers should be constantly reminded of the objectives of the Gild. Good fellowship should prevail at all Supplier gatherings.

An invitation to the annual feast should be an invitation highly respected among the Burghers.

No Burghers should ever be invited to Supplier breakfasts.

A definition of responsibility and duties of each officer and warden should be placed in the hands of each officer and warden when they are charged with that responsibility.

Invitations should be sent immediately to all Suppliers to attend the Gild breakfast for meetings that are coming up shortly.

The warden in whose territory the convention is being held should notify the clerk immediately of the day, the time, and the place of his breakfast.

Return post cards should be sent back to the clerk advising the clerk who will attend the breakfast of the Suppliers, the clerk to notify the warden in that territory immediately.

A deadline should be established.

The first convention at which this program will be tried will be Galveston.

The warden should be notified of the kind of a program he should set up and supplied with the necessary equipment.

The next convention will be the Mid-West Gas Association Meeting at the Hotel Saint Paul. Wardens Day and Fagan should be advised immediately.

1947

The year of 1947 will be remembered for the mid year switch from San Francisco, California to Cleveland, Ohio as the location of the A.G.A. Convention due to conflict of dates with A. F. of L.

The Tenth Annual Birthday party of The Gild was held on May 9th at The Meridian Club in Philadelphia. It was featured by the invitation of "Jakey" Jones to attend this affair. This was the first time that a Burgher had been invited to attend such a gathering for Suppliers only.

It was also at this function that the Wassail song of The Gild of Ancient Suppliers was introduced to the membership.

The words for the song follow in full.

WASSAIL SONG

1

Wassail, Wassail, all over the town,
Our bread it is white and our ale it is brown;
Our bowl it is made of the green maple tree;
In the Wassail bowl we'll drink unto thee.

2

Here's a health to the ox and to his right eye,
Pray God send our master a good Christmas pie,
A good Christmas pie as e'er I did see,
In the Wassail bowl we'll drink unto thee.

3

Here's a health to the ox and to his right horn,
Pray God send our master a good crop of corn,
A good crop of corn as e'er I did see,
In the Wassail bowl we'll drink unto thee.

4

Here's a health to the ox and to his long tail,
Pray God send our master a good cask of ale,
A good cask of ale as e'er I did see,
In the Wassail bowl we'll drink unto thee.

5

Come, butler, come fill us a bowl of the best;
Then I pray that your soul in Heaven may rest;
But if you do bring us a bowl of the small,
May the Devil take butler, bowl and all.

Then here's to the maid in the lily white smock,
Who tripped to the door and slipped back the lock,
Who tripped to the door and pulled back the pin,
To let these jolly Wassailers walk in.

The production of this song resulted from considerable research work done by Suppler Carl Schlegel. To preserve a record of this we are including a letter dated May 1, 1947, which Suppler Schlegel wrote to Mayor Mulcare. This letter follows:

May 1, 1947

Mr. Joseph A. Mulcare, Mayor
Gild of Ancient Supplers
53 Park Place
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mayor:

I have recently been reading about old Christmas Carols and have found certain matter related to a part of our Gild activities. Realizing its interest to me and thinking it might arouse a similar interest on the part of other members of the Gild, I am sending it to you. You may believe it of sufficient interest to give it a few minutes' time at the birthday party next week.

There is an old Christmas Carol entitled, "The Wassail Song". This is quite well known and is included in the attached book of Christmas Carols on Page 29. I am enclosing a copy of the words of this song.

In the Oxford Song Book, there is a Wassail song, a copy of words of which is enclosed. I have made a copy of the music for these words which I can have available for the party.

The interesting part to me, however, is the melody and words given in the Story of the Carol by E. Duncan, the ultimate source being recorded as Chappell's Ancient English Melodies - 1838. The words to this song are quite similar to the words of the Wassail song referred to just above and have the same origin. I have written up the melody and harmonized it, with a photostatic copy of the resultant words and music being attached. I see no reference to this melody in such other books on Carols that I have looked at and, for the present, may assume at least that it is not generally known.

It occurs to me that this song might be considered one that could be adopted by the Gild as its song, if such a procedure is desirable or at least be available as a selection to be sung at Gild parties by the entertainers. The melody is quaint and quite appropriate to the words.

If the thought of a Gild song meets with approval, a committee should be appointed to study the matter so that we can be sure that the final selection is made from a thorough study of the material available.

I am enclosing a copy of the words of the song, a note that the word "Wassail" was first introduced in the Fifth Century, and a copy of the definition of the noun and verb from Webster's Dictionary which was quite interesting to me.

I quote from a brief story of the Christmas Carol:

"The Wassail is one of the oldest forms of English carol and derives its name from the Anglo-Saxon 'Weshal' (be hale or healthy), a toast equivalent to the modern, good health. The presence of a feasting carol is easily understood, if we remember that most of the great Christian festivals were grafted on the feast days of the old heathen mythology. Christmas coincides with the time when the Druids celebrated the winter feasts; the Romans, the Saturnalia; and the Scandinavians, the Feast of the Yule. The well-known Wassail song familiar to the English people is the North country traditional carol, 'Here We Come A Wassailing'".

The ritual of the Gild is steeped in early English history. Is there not something more in this rich background of early English customs that in some way might be brought out as an interesting phase of our gatherings?

I am sending a copy of this letter to Mr. C. E. Bartlett as he expressed an interest in the possibility of a Gild song.

Looking forward to seeing you next week, I am,

Sincerely yours,

C.A.Schlegel
Vice President and
Gas Sales Manager

The annual Wassail of the Gild was held on Monday, October 6, at 5 P.M. at the Midday Club, 2100 Union Commerce Building, Cleveland, Ohio. Once again the attendance was around three hundred.

At the annual session of the Gild the following slate of officers was elected:

Mayor - Joe A. Mulcare
Senior Warden - E. Carl Sorby
Clerk - John VanNorden
Keeper-of-the-Treasure - Glenn Miles
Aldermen - Joseph A. Messenger
George P. Velte
Wayne R. Smith

1948

During 1948 the attendance at the Suppliers' breakfasts was greatly improved as evidenced by the photographs that were taken at these breakfasts which are in the files of The Gild.

Warden Wright of Boston, Mass. initiated the idea of having monthly luncheons for the Suppliers in his district. While the plan was not a huge success Warden Wright continued these luncheon meetings into 1949.

Early in March 1948, P. M. I., William S. Guitteau suffered a bad heart attack and was sent post haste to the Orange Memorial Hospital in Orlando, Florida. In response to a telegram sent to him on March 9th we received the following information in a letter from Bill's Secretary:

"I believe that you have known Mr. Guitteau for quite some time and therefore to give you some idea of his present condition, this morning when I visited him I found four nurses in his room and one just leaving. He is involved, with the nurses, in some intrigue concerning a beauty contest or something of the sort, which is being conducted by the entire staff of nurses. From the situation I found we may have some difficulty in getting him to consent to his release from the Hospital."

The Annual Wassail was held at The Hotel Madison in Atlantic City, New Jersey on Monday, October 4th.

At this convocation H. Carl Wolf was honored by being made the third Honorary Master Suppler of the Gild.

1949

Once again this year the Gild Breakfasts at the various Gas Conventions were followed up carefully and the membership well notified as to when they would be held. The response was encouraging. Pictures of these breakfast meetings are in the files.

The annual Birthday Feast of The Gild was held at The Meridian Club in Philadelphia. Thirty-five Suppliers attended the Feast and once again Burgher Jake Jones of Bridgeton, N. J. was the honored guest.

The Annual Convention of The American Gas Association was held this year in Chicago, Illinois.

The Annual Wassail of The Gild was held in the Grand Dining Room of The University Club of Chicago. This room afforded quite the most spacious quarters we had thus far had been able to obtain for a Wassail. The management of The University Club handled all arrangements perfectly so that The Wassail was a success.

At the Annual Session the following slate of officers was elected:

Mayor - E. Carl Sorby
Senior Warden - Joseph A. Messenger
Clerk - John Van Norden
Keeper-of-the-Treasure - Glenn H. Niles
Aldermen - George P. Velte
 Wayne R. Smith
 Stephen D. Day

1950

The entire membership of the Gild was shocked on March 17th by the death of our esteemed Clerk, John Van Norden. He was a friend to everyone and he was much missed in our gatherings.

Apprentice Suppler William G. Hamilton, Jr. was appointed by Mayor Sorby to fill the unexpired term of John Van Norden as Clerk of the Gild.

The Fourteenth Annual Feast celebrating the birth of the Gild was held at The University Club of Chicago on May 8th.

This event was given excellent advance publicity which resulted in this Birthday Feast being the best attended so far in the history of the Gild.

The gathering was addressed by Suppler Louis Rothenburg. Following the address Immediate Past Mayor Joe A. Mulcare was presented with a silver platter as a token of the esteem with which he was held by the entire membership of the Gild.

The thirteenth annual convocation and Wassail of the Gild was held at The Hotel Madison in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on October 2nd. The attendance at this Wassail was probably the largest to date. At any rate there were three hundred sixty-four who paid their way in.

At the Annual meeting of the Gild the members present unanimously voted to increase the dues of the Gild from ten dollars to twenty dollars per year. This was the first change in the dues since the Gild was founded.

On December 8th, 1950 the membership of the Gild was as follows:

250	paying Supplers
13	sages
3	temporarily remitted
3	honorary
269	

On December 8th the Great Council approved of and accepted the scroll for Sages as designed by Cy Grossle of the Hicks and Greist advertising agency of New York.

1951

This year it was decreed that the customary central celebration of the Gild's birthday be dispensed with in favor of district festivities. Thus on Thursday, May 10th simultaneous Birthday parties were held in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Boston and Chicago. A total of two hundred fifty-eight Supplers attended these functions.

At a meeting of The Great Council held on July 30th at The Engineers' Club in New York City a new design of Gild emblem was approved. The new design of Gild emblem was the same as the original emblem but supplemented with a stone in the lamp using a Ruby for Villeins, an Orange Sapphire for Apprentices, a Yellow Topaz for Yeomen, and a White Sapphire for Masters.

Gild breakfasts throughout the country were well attended and gained in popularity. Many of them featured outstanding speakers.

The Annual Meeting and Wassail of the Gild was held at The Missouri Athletic Club in St. Louis, Missouri on October 15th.

At the Annual Meeting the following slate of officers was elected:

Mayor - Stephen D. Day
Senior Warden - George P. Velte
Clerk - W. G. Hamilton, Jr.
Keeper-of-the-Treasure - Glenn H. Niles
Aldermen - J. A. Messenger
Frank Packer
Louis Ruthenberg

The Wassail, the first one held under the direction of Master of Revels, Alvin Stock was an outstanding success. The attendance was close to four hundred. Master of Revels received the acclaim of all who were there.

1952

At a meeting of the Great Council held at The Engineers' Club in New York City on January 23rd a suitable gift for past Mayor Sorby was discussed. Mayor Stephen Day, who had made a preliminary check suggested a Steuben Glass bowl with suitable engraving and an ebony base bearing a silver plaque inscribed with proper sentiment.

P. M. III Mulcare followed this matter up and on February 1st advised the members of the Great Council that he, with the approval of Mayor Day, had selected such a bowl with cover and arranged for its purchase.

This bowl was presented to F. M. Sorby by Mayor Day at a breakfast of the Gild held in Colorado Springs at the time of the G. A. M. A. meeting.

The annual birthday Feast of the Gild was held at The Meridian Club in Philadelphia on May 9th. Warden Sol Weil was in charge of the festivities and as usual Delaware Shad and Asparagus were featured. At the behest of Senior Warden Velte in his notice to all Suppliers, telling of the Birthday Feast, Suppliers everywhere were urged to foregather wherever possible if they be denied the privilege of attending the Feast in Philadelphia.

Very successful Gild Breakfasts were held throughout the land and were at practically every one of these breakfasts the Suppliers were addressed by an outstanding man in the Gas Industry.

The Annual Meeting of the Gild was held at The Hotel Madison in Atlantic City on October 27th. At this meeting the motion of P. M. I. Guitteau, to limit the membership in the Gild to three hundred and fifty until the Annual meeting in 1953, was unanimously approved.

The annual Wassail was held immediately after the Annual Meeting. This Wassail was a huge success and the work of Master Revels, Al Stock was warmly applauded. There were nearly five hundred Suppliers and Burghers in attendance.

1953

In 1953 there were seven notable Birthday Feasts. Chicago, New Orleans, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Boston and New York. All of these Feasts were well attended and showed great enthusiasm on the part of the Suppliers. The total attendance has not been recorded.

At a meeting of The Great Council held at the Chase Hotel in Saint Louis, Missouri on October 26th, P.M. III Mulcare presented Master of Revels, Alvin Stock on behalf of the Gild with a set of traveling bags for Mrs. Stock and himself as a token of appreciation.

The Annual Meeting of the Gild was held immediately following the Great Council meeting. At this meeting on motion passed P.M. II Bartlett was appointed a committee of one to look into the matter of getting new Gild banners with suitable carrying cases and report to the Great Council.

The following slate of officers was elected:

Mayor - Stephen D. Day
Senior Warden - George F. Velte
Keeper-of-the-Treasure - Glenn H. Miles
Clerk - William C. Hamilton, Jr.
Aldermen - Frank C. Packer of the West Coast
 Joseph A. Messenger of the East Coast
 C. D. Lyford of the West Midwest

The Annual Wassail of the Gild was held on The Starlight Roof on the Chase Hotel, Saint Louis, Missouri from five 'til seven, hours after the meridian October 26th. This proved to be the most outstanding Wassail held up to that time. The attendance at this Wassail was not recorded.

Gild breakfasts during the year at the various Gas meetings were well attended and grew in popularity.

The Gild staged its first Christmas Party in Philadelphia on December 18th. Sol Weill, Cy Chapman, and Ed Wilson handled the affair. There were twenty Suppliers and twenty Burghers in attendance.

At a meeting of the Great Council held at Pocono Manor Inn, Pocono Manor, Pennsylvania on May 17th, P.M. II C. Edwin Bartlett presented a sample of a new banner for the Gild. The Great Council authorized P.M. II to proceed with the purchase of ten (10) of these banners and have them ready for the Annual Wassail.

At this meeting W. D. Ashby was appointed Master of Revels. To assist him the following committee was also appointed:

George P. Velte
C. Edwin Bartlett
A. P. Johnson
J. A. Mulcare

In August of 1954 the Gild membership stood at three hundred and twenty-two and was distributed throughout The United States, Canada, and Mexico as shown by the following list:

Alabama	3	Missouri	13
California	36	Nebraska	2
Colorado	1	New Hampshire	1
Connecticut	4	New Jersey	19
Dist. of Columbia	1	New York	39
Florida	7	North Carolina	1
Georgia	8	Ohio	20
Illinois	27	Oklahoma	1
Indiana	6	Oregon	1
Iowa	1	Pennsylvania	46
Kansas	2	Tennessee	2
Kentucky	3	Texas	22
Louisiana	3	Wisconsin	7
Maryland	2	Canada	4
Massachusetts	18	Mexico	1
Michigan	13	Lost (add. unknown)	4
Minnesota	4	Total	322

Gild breakfasts were held at all Gas functions but the Wardens reported that trouble was being experienced by Suppliers signifying their intention to attend breakfasts and then failing to show up. This matter was placed on the agenda for the Annual Meeting.

Birthday Feasts were held in several cities as usual.

At a meeting of The Great Council held at The Hotel Madison in Atlantic City, New Jersey on October 11th, the Clerk presented the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, it would appear that the Seventeenth Annual Session of the Gild of Ancient Suppliers will adopt an amendment to the Constitution providing for the appointment as an Honorary Sage of a Supplier

worthy of such honor, and so recommend to the Session by the Great Council, and

WHEREAS, the Great Council feels that it would honor itself, the Gild and William F. Guitteau, the founder and first Mayor of the Gild if it should recommend to the Session that it, by appropriate resolution and in accordance with Constitution at the time this Resolution may be presented for their consideration create His Past, But Never Forgotten, Excellency P.M.I, William S. Guitteau an Honorary Sage of the Gild of Ancient Suppliers. Therefore be it resolved that the Great Council make, and hereby does make, such recommendation to the 17th Annual Session being the next Annual Session following the recommendation by the Council of our Founder, BILL GUITTEAU.

George Velte resigned as Senior Warden as of October 31st, 1954. Mayor Day appointed C. D. Lyford to fill the unexpired term as Senior Warden. The appointment was accepted by Lyford.

The Annual meeting of the Gild was held at The Hotel Madison in Atlantic City, New Jersey on October 11th.

At this meeting P. M. I William S. Guitteau was elected the first Honorary Sage of The Gild.

The Annual Wassail was held at The Hotel Madison in Atlantic City, New Jersey on October 11th from five to seven P.M. At this Wassail the new banners for each of the ten districts of the Gild were displayed for the first time. They were approved by everyone.

This was the first Wassail held under the direction of Master of Revels Ashby and his Wassail committee. The Wassail was an unqualified success from every stand point.

1954

1955

During 1955 due to the fact that Mayor Day's health was poor Senior Warden Lyford, in accordance with the Constitution of The Gild, functioned for the Mayor and did a very commendable job. He actually rendered an outstanding service for the Gild.

Once Gild Breakfasts were held at all Oas meetings and were well attended. The problem of (No Shows) was solved by securing payment in advance. A very sensible procedure.

In Philadelphia the Suppliers of District #7 "Delaware and Chesapeake Reaches", Al Johnson Warden gave a party for Burgher Ed Smoker upon his being elevated to The Presidency of The U. G. I. The old Meridian Club was taxed to capacity.

On September 8th the Great Council decided that in the future the Gild will present to Mayor upon his retirement from office an emblem which is to be accompanied by U. S. Government Bonds in the amount of two hundred dollars (\$200.00).

As the A. G. A. convention was held in Los Angeles, California a meeting of the Great Council, the Annual Meeting of the Gild and the Annual Gild Wassail was held at Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles, California on October 16th, 1955.

At the Annual meeting Amendments to the Constitution were adopted increasing the number of Aldermen from three to five.

The following slate of officers was elected:

Mayor - William O. Hamilton, Jr.
Senior Warden - C. D. Lyford
Clerk - W. B. Ashby
Keeper-of-the-Treasure - Glenn H. Niles
Aldermen - T. T. Arden
 J. H. Schmidt
 H. E. Jalass
 Frank C. Toney
 R. B. Wright

P. M. II C. Edwin Bartlett was congratulated the encomium to be presented to each officer upon completion of his office in the Gild.