CHEMICAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

CEDOMIR M. SLIEPCEVICH

Transcript of an Interview
   Conducted by

   James J. Bohning

   at

   University of Oklahoma

   on

   1 March 1993

(With Subsequent Corrections and Additions)
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CEDOMIR M. SLIEPCEVICH

1920 Born in Anaconda, Montana, on 4 October

Education

1941 B.S., chemical engineering, University of Michigan
1942 M.S., chemical engineering, University of Michigan
1948 Ph.D., chemical engineering, University of Michigan

Professional Experience

1942- present Private Consultant

University of Michigan
1942-1948 Associate, Research Institute
1942-1946 Teaching Assistant
1946-1948 Instructor
1948-1952 Assistant Professor of Chemical and Metallurgical Engineering
1948-1952 Chairman of the Graduate Standards Committee for Chemical and Metallurgical Engineering
1953-1955 Associate Professor of Chemical and Metallurgical Engineering
1953-1955 Chairman of the Graduate Standards Committee for Chemical and Metallurgical Engineering

Monsanto Chemical Company
1952-1953 Senior Chemical Engineer

University of Oklahoma
1955-1959 Professor and Chairman of Chemical Engineering
1956-1962 Associate Dean of the College of Engineering
1958-1963 Chairman of the School of General Engineering
1963-1991 George Lynn Cross Research Professor of Engineering
1989-1991 Robert W. Hughes Centennial Professor of Engineering
1991-present Professor Emeritus of Engineering

Constock Liquid Methane Corporation
1955-1960 Manager of Research, Development, and Engineering Conch Methane Services Ltd. (London)
1960-1963 Principal Consultant
1963-1978  University Engineers, Inc.
          President
          Chairman of the Board of Directors

1978- present  University Technologists, Inc.
          President and Chairman of the Board of Directors

1945-1990  Autoclave Engineers, Inc. (Erie, PA)
          Consultant

1961-1990  Board of Directors

1961-1963  Constock-Pritchard Corporation (Kansas City, MO)
          Board of Directors

1974-1975  Republic Geothermal, Inc. (Santa Fe Springs, CA)
          Board of Directors

Honors

1958  Curtis McGraw Research Award, American Society for Engineering Education
1959  International Ipatieff Research Prize
1962  National Sigma Xi Lecturer
1964  George Westinghouse Award, American Society for Engineering Education
1967  Sesquicentennial Award for Distinguished Alumni, University of Michigan
1972  Member, National Academy of Engineers
1972  Peter C. Reilly Lecturer, University of Notre Dame
1973  Engineer of the Year, Oklahoma Society of Professional Engineers
1974  Engineer of the Year, National Society of Professional Engineers
1974  Oklahoma Hall of Fame
1975  Distinguished Service Citation, University of Oklahoma
1975  Award of Merit, Oklahoma Academy of Science
1976  Donald L. Katz Lecturer, University of Michigan
1978  William H. Walker Award, American Institute of Chemical Engineers
1986  Gas Industry Research Award, Sprague Schlumberger, Operating Section, American Gas Association
1992  University of Oklahoma established C. M. Sliepcevich Professorship in College of Engineering
1993  First Honorary Member of the University of Oklahoma College of Engineering Distinguished Graduates Society
ABSTRACT

Cedomir Sliepcevich begins the interview with a description of his family and early years in Anaconda, Montana. A firm educational beginning in Anaconda influenced Sliepcevich to attend college. He enrolled at Montana State College in 1937 in the chemical engineering program. During his sophomore year, Sliepcevich knew he wanted to go on to graduate school. In 1939 he transferred to the University of Michigan and there received his B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. in chemical engineering. While a graduate student, Sliepcevich studied thermodynamics under George Granger Brown. During the summer of 1942, he worked with Fred Kurata on a National Defense Research Council classified project on screening smokes. While earning his Ph.D., Sliepcevich was an instructor at the University, where he taught thermodynamics. After receiving his Ph.D. in 1947, he also worked as a consultant for the U.S. Army V-2 rocket test program. In addition to his career in academia, Sliepcevich continued to do consulting work for various companies, including Monsanto Chemical Company, Constock Liquid Methane Corporation, and Autoclave Engineers, Inc. In 1955, he joined the faculty of the University of Oklahoma as Professor and Chairman of Chemical Engineering. Sliepcevich was instrumental in redeveloping the University’s doctoral program and engineering curricula, and established the Flame Dynamics Laboratory there. He founded his own firm, University Engineers, Inc., in 1963, which specialized in fire protection systems for liquid natural gas. He officially retired from teaching in 1991, and continued to work as a consultant on many research projects. Sliepcevich concludes the interview with reflections on his career.

INTERVIEWER

James J. Bohning is currently Visiting Research Scientist at Lehigh University. He has served as Professor of Chemistry Emeritus at Wilkes University, where he was a faculty member from 1959 to 1990. He served there as chemistry department chair from 1970 to 1986 and environmental science department chair from 1987 to 1990. He was chair of the American Chemical Society’s Division of the History of Chemistry in 1986, received the Division’s outstanding paper award in 1989, and presented more than twenty-five papers before the Division at national meetings of the Society. He has written for the American Chemical Society News Service, and He has been on the advisory committee of the Society’s National Historic Chemical Landmarks committee since its inception in 1992. He developed the oral history program of the Chemical Heritage Foundation beginning in 1985, and was the Foundation’s Director of Oral History from 1990 to 1995.
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