

# A. P. ASHNER

455 Paul Brown Bldg.

ST. LOUIS, MO.

December 12, 1935.

## "PUSH"

(Probably our permanent name at last.)

Iron & Steel Scrap  
Waste Materials

"PUSH," the name of the old Junior Chamber publication, was suggested by several but I thought, in blissful ignorance it was still being used by the present organization. I find the name is "FLASH," so we are free to use the old familiar title. To paraphrase, "PUSH, crushed to earth, shall rise again!" If there are any objections, kindly register.

Relaying Rail  
Railway Supplies

The chief news this time, especially for those not present, is the report on the annual dinner held Saturday, Nov. 30, at the Kingsway Hotel. Many commented on the pleasure of seeing the others again. And no one enjoyed it more than this reporter who seems to be a sort of permanent toastmaster

Used Structural  
Steel & Pipe

At the start each rose in turn to be re-introduced by name and company or profession, amid much well-aimed bantering. We found the following 44 men present (more than twice last year's attendance): John Armbruster, Sid Ashen-Brenner, Abe Ashner, Jerry Barker, Walter Bohman, Paul Burg, Joe Burger, Chas. Cooley, Elmer Daab, Fred Daves, Marion DeVeaux, George Fishwick, Joe Gerichten, Lou Grone, George Johnson, Carl Kayser, Bill Lesseig, Lou Leverington, Bill Mahne, Frank Meehan, Ray Mills, Andy Mungenast, Milton Napier, John Nies, Ed Palmer, Mick Payne, Frank Reeves, Herb Rhein, Walter Rhein, Henry Richter, Miro Sadlo, Pete Schott, Walter Schukai, Orville Spreen, Omar Storey, Hap Thoelke, Vorne Vance, Erdman Vogel, Irv Vogel, Elmer Wichon, Ed Williams, Fred Winsor, Sam Withall and Oscar Zahner. (Wonder if Oscar ever gets tired of the end of the alphabet? Will try to remember to run next list in reverse order.) Les Goebbels couldn't get to the dinner but showed up later.

Industrial Dismantling  
and Liquidating

There was little program but much free talk. One fine note of seriousness was John Armbruster's tribute to Henry Giessenbier, given in the effective form of a hypothetical letter to us all from Henry, an encouraging and inspiring start for our pleasant meeting. By the way, there is a plan afoot for a national memorial in Henry's honor. It will probably take shape at the Memphis convention next year.

The only scheduled speech was a ten-minute talk given by Frank Meehan as only Frank can give it. Speaking of these friendships we have formed, the progress we have made and the heights we have yet to reach, he gave us all something to think about and something to be grateful for.

Frank then made a motion for a permanent organization,



amended by Mick Payne to make Chas. Cooley permanent chairman with authority to appoint an assisting committee of five, over the protests of the chair, and it was all unanimously adopted, Herb Rhein dissenting. So that leaves it just where it was before! Elmer Wiehen, Orville Spreen, Carl Kayser, John Armbruster, Paul Burg, Fred Winsor, and Sam Withall took prominent parts in the not-too-serious discussion, which included this paper and the cost of publication. Again over the protests of the chair (really) it was decided to share the cost of publication, Herb Rhein dissenting. In fact, Herb Rhein's Dissension contributed much toward keeping the meeting in a roar.

I promised to work out a plan to cover cost, but cost means merely postage. "Two-bits" a year per person would more than cover it, but that is difficult to ship through the mail, unless by check, so how can I collect? And no one will be removed from the list if he doesn't remit. Will some financial genius offer a suggestion? Particularly since I have in custody 25% of the assets of Milton Napier, and \$1 from Oscar Zahner, three-fourths of which we will return to him. It was decided that a different man should or could contribute his letterheads for each issue. That is why we are indebted to Abe Ashner for this letterhead to carry the first edition under the "Mude Eel."

Verne Vance, prominent Omaha attorney and former president of the Omaha Junior Chamber and member of the national board of directors, was present as the guest of John Armbruster. We were glad to have a word from Verne, who asked whether the meeting is an annual Thanksgiving-week affair. He was assured that it is and extended a permanent invitation. He is always in St. Louis at that time.

The enjoyable novelty of the evening was the old Junior Chamber album of 1922, brought to the meeting by Sid Ashen-Brenner, who took all the photos and in whose care it rests. What a fine collection of heart-breakers it exhibits! George Fishwick also dug up a number of old group photos, conventions, banquets, etc., that were a treat.

Letters and cards were received from a number who were unable to attend, the one from Harry Krusz (Tulsa) arriving by air mail special delivery just as the dinner began. He said, in part, "You cannot possibly know how much I would like to be with you all tonight. I have waited until the very last minute, hoping that something might develop to enable me to attend. Have a swell time and be sure to continue the annual meeting."

From Brainerd LaTourette, attorney and mayor of Richmond Heights, came word in proper legal phraseology that, "I plead guilty to whatever charge may be lodged against me." (Brainerd is running a city of 11,000, practicing law, heading the county United Charities drive, attending meetings of the St. Louis County League of Municipalities, the Safety Council and various civic organizations, and maybe kissing babies (infants) between times.) "In the rush and bustle of the day we are apt to lose contact with each other. These fine friendships formed during our earlier years should not suffer by reason of our varied activities, and one way to prevent that is through our publication."

Ted Fleming wrote from Peoria that he fully expected to attend, but he had recently bought an interest in the Model Brass Co., of Decatur, in addition to the lithographing business in Peoria, and had to attend a meeting there on Nov. 30. He regretted his absence exceedingly, as he had counted on being here.

Bill Gentry, who has been confined to his home for a long time, wrote, "I wish I could be with you, but I am staging a very slow come-back. Please remember me most cordially to those who attend." You bet you were remembered, Bill, and everyone wishes you a speedier come-back from now on.

Others whose regrets were read were: Carl Dietrich, Grady Vion (sorry we haven't room for Grady's whole worthy letter), Cline Finnell (moving back to St. Louis from Sedalia - he has been selected as national secretary of "The Indian Guides of America," the father-and-son movement), Dwight Holmes, "Pop" Allison, Don Beebe, Walter "Noisy" Bruck, Jack Lynn, Les Mahl, Bill Kroeger, Herman Dacus, Bob Smith, Fremont Fischer, Paul Weeke, Art Schikore, Perc Ballard, Howard Davidson (a meeting kept him in Chicago), Henry Hoegger, Carlton Cooley, Bill Reinhardt, Bill Ahlert and Alex Smith.

The fine dinner served by "mine host," Marion DeVeaux, must have inspired Herb Rhein to move that all single men present defray the cost of the next dinner. Motion was amended to permit only single men to vote. There were 12 present. Motion failed, Herb Rhein dissenting. No account of the evening is complete without mention of Sam Withall's worthy and painless extraction of \$44 out of 44 men - but the check was presented for \$44.44! So much for the dinner. It was very hilarious. But these fellows can't fool me. I know the regard for each other behind the wise-cracks!

If anyone failed to read Tuesday's paper, Doug Williams is now the daddy of little June, 2 months old, who joins their Doug, Jr., now 18 months. The fine thing about this is that Doug and his wife adopted these children from "The Cradle," in Evanston, Ill. This is one of the world's noble acts, blessing alike everyone in the circle.

If Christmas is a great time for children, then I'm still childish. I get a great kick out of it, and I am most happy over something I just learned in the last few years. Our little five-year-old believes in Santa Claus and I hope he will always believe in Santa Claus. Without disturbing his present conception of a corporeal being who works at the North Pole, flashes through the sky behind his reindeer and comes down the chimney on Christmas Eve, we are trying to teach him that Santa Claus represents the spirit of giving. We cannot see him because he is the spirit of sharing. He is none the less real, for he is the bringer of great good. He can cover the whole world in one night because he is the great happiness found in making others happy. The youngster is beginning to grasp it. On his own initiative he almost cleaned out his toy box for those less fortunate. His thought will undergo a painless, even joyous transition. I hope he always believes in Santa Claus.

This light beamed forth in a recent article in Liberty, the thought of the president of the House of Peers in Japan, a nation believed to be warlike. He gave as the only basis for a lasting world peace a greater spirit of giving among nations for their varied national needs, greater friendliness, consideration, even studied generosity, such as giving an inland nation a permanent outlet to the sea, to realign the world if necessary. Then suspicion, hatred, jealousy, armaments and war will decline. The great nations have the most to give and must take the lead. I must say I am believing more and more in Santa Claus as the years go by.

Merry Christmas from everybody to everybody!

CHAS. F. COOLEY, Jr.