

# HISTORY... A BIT OF CIB HISTORY...

**THE CONCRETE INDUSTRY BOARD** was born out of an extreme need to achieve quality in site-cast concrete construction. The CIB has prevailed for more than 50 years in pursuing the highest industry standard of quality in the design and construction of concrete work. The following is a shortened version of a history of the CIB's first 35 years, with thanks to its author, Reg Hough.

## THE EARLY YEARS

The year was 1950, the postwar building boom had begun, and in alternate bidding reinforced concrete had proven itself more economical for high rise housing than structural steel. But conditions existing in the concrete industry regarding the availability of concrete of suitable quality caused its continued use to be challenged. If immediate steps were not taken to assure the continued supply of quality concrete, the use of concrete as a recognized and accepted material for construction would be discontinued.

The Cement League under its then president, Roger H. Corbetta, appointed a committee on controlled concrete with the authority to create a central organization to be composed of all groups or individuals within the New York City area who were interested in quality concrete as a building material. Mr. Corbetta (later president of ACI) chaired the committee ably assisted by D.J. Cameron (later chairman of CRSI).

On November 28, 1950 the

Cement League Committee on controlled concrete scheduled a luncheon meeting with the goal of establishing a permanent organization made up of all representative interests in the concrete industry. They included testing laboratories, American Society of Civil Engineers, ready mix companies, structural designers, cement manufacturers, Portland Cement Association, American Concrete Institute, and Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute.

At that meeting it was agreed to activate a subcommit-

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tee of the group to meet for the purpose of nominating a permanent Chairman and Secretary, arriving at a name for the organization, considering a paid individual as an administrative head of the organization, preparing a program and perhaps by-laws for the activities of the group, reviewing possible sources of revenue, and other matters of importance.

Members of the subcommittee came from the Fireproofing Products Co. Inc., Structural Engineers Society, Robert H. Hunt Co., Lone Star Cement Co., Portland Cement Manufacturers, Ready Mix Concrete Producers, American Concrete Institute, Turner Construction

Company, and White Construction Co.

On January 19, 1951, M.J. McMillan (Portland Cement Manufacturers), Charles Whitney (ACI), and Roger Corbetta met at the Engineers Club to review a tentative program for the formation of a permanent organization. Mr. McMillan assumed the chore of preparing a formal set of by-laws and perhaps a constitution for consideration by the membership. Names suggested for the organization included: Concrete Masters League, New York Concrete Association and the New York Concrete Institute.

By letter on April 2, 1951 to Dugald Cameron, Roger Corbetta voted that the formation of the proposed Concrete Industry Association was ready for final action and a luncheon meeting would be held on April 9 attended by representatives of every phase of the concrete industry to initiate the program.

The group met, officers and directors were elected, and the tentative constitution and by-laws adopted. It was concluded that they would continue to meet monthly at luncheon meetings. The Concrete Industry Board was approved as the official name of the new organization.

Officers elected were:

Chairman **Roger H. Corbetta**, Secretary **John F. Hall**, Treasurer **Dugald J. Cameron**.

Board of Directors were:

**Dugald J. Cameron**, Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute; **Roger H. Corbetta**, The Cement League; **J. Di Stasio**, Structural Engineers Society;

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**Edwin M. Forbes**, American Institute of Architects; **Charles Whitney**, American Concrete Institute; **L.D. Long**, Testing Laboratories; **M.J. McMillan**, Portland Cement Manufacturers; **Anthony Pope**, Ready Mix Manufacturing; **P.E. Shilling**, The Cement League; and **H.E. Tear**, The Cement League.

### THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

On June 14, 1951 the Cement League, in affiliation with the Building Trades Employers Association, officially announced the formation of the Concrete Industry Board with the officers and directors noted above. The announcement was carried in the New York Times of June 15, 1951.

From the beginning, it was determined that the Concrete Industry Board, rather than being just a monthly luncheon club, would be a permanent, continually active organization which would serve as a clearing house and be mutually beneficial in solving problems, with the objective of achieving better and more economical concrete structures. A motto of "Quality in Concrete" was adopted as an apt reminder of the organization's objectives.

Chairman Corbetta, the officers and directors made certain that this course would be followed. Before the end of the year, 18 committees were active, their chairmen prodded into action by Roger's frequent inquiry "How is your committee doing?" The committee chairmen and members were of a sta-

ture that they could have constituted a Who's Who in the design and construction industry. Also, by the end of the first year the integrity of concrete supply had begun to be set in order and concrete construction launched a new and positive building era in New York City.

### COMMITTEES

CIB committees have continued to be active since early days and the results of the endless hours devoted by committee members has been one of the CIB's greatest contributions. With each committee composed of an industry cross section and their recommendations subject to

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***By 1951, the 1938 NYC Building Code did not incorporate advances in reinforced concrete.***

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review and approval by the Board of Directors, the threat of self-interest and impartiality is mute. All committees have been organized to meet a given need and with very few exceptions have accomplished their assigned tasks before moving on.

### CODE WORK

Prior to 1915 there was practically nothing in the New York City Building Code related to concrete. The City Code was revised in 1915 and following that the next revision was in 1938. By 1951, the 1938 revision was incomplete, obsolete, and did not present the thinking of the many advances in reinforced concrete. Many designs

submitted to the Building Department were based on the ACI code and because they did not coincide with the New York City Code, major revisions were required.

On December 12, 1962, Mayor Wagner signed Local Law No. 74, an industry wide revision of the 1938 code. Hard working committees of the Concrete Industry Board had drafted and submitted the adopted concrete sections. Their work eliminated many ambiguities and brought the concrete sections of the code into line with modern technology, techniques, and procedures. Revisions to the concrete sections of Local Law 74 were made to incorporate later provisions of the ACI Codes of 1963 and 1967. In each case a code committee of The Concrete Industry Board prepared and submitted the approved revisions under notable chairmanships such as Mr. Bill Eipel. CIB's present code committee [Ed. note: 1985] chaired by Martin Lovett have devoted endless hours preparing the latest revision to update the New York City Code.

### SOME MEMORABLE DATES...

- The first regular luncheon meeting of the new Concrete Industry Board was held on May 14, 1951 at the BTEA meeting rooms. The speaker was Captain Emil Praeger and the topic "Our Problem."
- In November 1951, Volume 1, Number 1 of "The Report" was issued. This four page publication from the Concrete In-

dustry Board was its first official publication.

- On January 1, 1955, Vice Admiral John J. Manning, U.S. Navy Retired and former Chief of the Bureau of Yards and Docks, was appointed *Managing Director* of the Concrete Industry Board, a position he filled with distinction until his untimely death in 1962.
- The Concrete Industry Board hosted the *National ACI Convention* in 1961 and 1984.
- "The Report" was succeeded in 1961 by the "*Concrete Era*" of which we quote the Board in its infinite wisdom "...we authorize \$200 for the purpose of defraying expenses of the first issue of the *Era*." How times change...
- In 1962 the *First Annual*

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*Awards Dinner* was held to honor outstanding concrete structures and all the participants from design through construction and supply who contributed to it. Selected for the first honor was the *TWA Arrivals Building* at Kennedy International Airport.

- The "*Concrete Era*" in turn was replaced in September 1964 by the present publication "*The Concrete Industry Bulletin*." Contrasting with the Report's modest beginning, the Bulletin now [1985] has a mailing list

approaching 2,000 copies.

- In 1984 the annual *Summer Golf Outing* was established. It was founded and organized by Jim Halpin.
- In 1985 an annual Spring Founders Day Dinner was held honoring the sixteen past presidents.

Throughout its existence, the Concrete Industry Board has been blessed with the strong support of dedicated membership to give time from busy schedules to contribute to an organization devoted to quality in concrete. The accomplishments of the CIB and its continued health over the years can only be attributed to these people. **Thank you all...**

— Reg Hough

**CONGRATULATIONS ON THE CIB'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY**



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