

GRANT H. ARRASMITH
February 5, 1926 - February 28, 2004

Grant was born in Grand Island, Nebraska on February 5, 1926 and was a Purdue alumnus graduating with a BSME degree in 1948.

Grant's history in the industry includes work in the Mechanical Department of CB&Q Railroad where he was involved for a time with testing and air brakes. During that time he also worked on the Burlington Zephyr.

Following his experience on the railroad, Grant moved to the supply side, joining the Friction Products Group of ABEX in Mahwah, New Jersey. Assignments there included being Chief Engineer of Testing and at least one assignment in Paris, France related to brake shoes. That explains Grant's tendency to use French words and phrases, especially in leisure conversation!

In 1978 Grant transferred to Stanray (Railroad Products Group of ABEX) as Manager of Engineering in Hammond, Indiana. There, he was responsible for Product Design and Development as well as Product Engineering. In 1982 Grant transferred to the ABEX Trackwork Products Group in Chicago Heights, Illinois as Manager of Quality Assurance.

It might be said that Grant had two careers, one in the railroad industry and one with ASME. Grant joined ASME in 1955 and became active in the Rail Transportation Division, being appointed to Manager of Divisional Affairs in 1986, and serving in that capacity until health issues caused him to resign during the summer of 2003. At RTD committee meetings, he would always sit at the head of the table next to the Division Chairman. While the chairmanship changed each year, Grant remained. During the course of a meeting, it would not be unusual for the chairman to lean over and whisper in Grant's ear, "What's next?"

Grant was honored with the Rail Transportation Division Distinguished Service Award in 1990, was elected an ASME Fellow in 1991, and was presented the ASME Dedicated Service Award in 1994.

From 1990-2002 he attended 9 ASME Technology Executives Conferences held annually to provide division leaders with ASME's latest tools and tips for successfully managing one of the many divisions. Each year ASME conducts an International Mechanical Engineers Congress and Exposition (IMECE), and during the years from 1988-2002, Grant attended 12 of those Conferences.

Grant represented the Rail Transportation Division as a member of the Environmental & Transportation Group from June 1989 through June 2003. Among the many positions he held while a member of this group were:

- Group NC Representative
- Div. Member Interests
- Div. Membership Development
- Council On Member Affairs Rep
- Int'l Congress Group Rep
- Fellow Peer Correspondent
- CMI Technical Correspondent

No words can adequately express the appreciation that ASME and its Rail Transportation Division have for the fine work Grant Arrasmith carried out over the 17 years as Manager of Divisional Affairs. Success as a Division is in no small part attributed to his foresight, diligence, and insight. Not only was the job well for RTD, but the style in which he accomplished it was very professional and first class. Grant's work reflects very positively on RTD and encourages others to join in to make the Division a first class operation. What a great career and what a dedicated professional.

Grant is survived by his two sisters, Ann Robinson of Hoodspoint, WA and Barbara Johnson and her husband, Richard, of Lincoln, NE. He also had a number of nieces and nephews. His memorial service was held in Cape Coral, FL where he lived for many years. His final resting place is next to his parents in Lincoln, NE. A few words from his sister in announcing Grant's passing describe him well: "I'm a Railroad Man not by thought but by design; an engineer between my ears with freight trains on my mind."