



**ASHRAE, ASRE, ASHAE, ASHVE
064 HOUSTON CHAPTER (SOUTH TEXAS)
Golden Gavel 2012-13, 1973-73
75th Chapter Anniversary 1939-2014
First Newsletter in ASHVE Oct, 1944
70th HAR Anniversary 1944-2014**



Houston Chapter History Update CRC April 2014 75th Anniversary 1939 to 2014

ASHVE Got Its Start 120 Years Ago

- In 1894 a group of 75 heating and ventilating engineers got together in an organizational meeting and on September 10, 1895 in New York City to form the American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers (ASHVE).
- 1923 Texas had ten ASHVE members:
 - Austin F.E. Giesecke & J.R. Donnelly;
 - Beaumont O. Helphingstein;
 - Dallas Reg. F. “Chief” Taylor, P.E., C.S. Anderson & J.H. Van Zandt;
 - Houston A.F. Barnes;
 - San Angelo C.T. Houge;
 - San Antonio W.A. Ebert and
 - Wichita Falls C.C. Herd.

HVAC Systems Installed

- **Air-Conditioned Public Cafe** – 1922 – at Rice Hotel, Houston, Texas – earliest documented A/C system in Houston. The Houston Chapter was later to host the 1966 ASHRAE Society Semi-annual Meeting at the Rice Hotel.
- **Air-Conditioned Movie Theaters** – the Majestic, January 29, 1923, Houston, Texas; later followed by the Metropolitan December 25, 1926 and the Loew's State October 15, 1927. The Loew's State and the Metropolitan shared a basement cooling plant; it consisted of a 200 ton carbon dioxide compressor (low RPM, 1,300 psig, 14 foot diameter flywheel driven by an electric motor and a three foot wide leather belt; large diameter, low RPM centrifugal fans with black steel pipe coils and concrete ducts distributed the cooled air. Jesse Jones was the developer. The Texan, Isis and Majestic basement mechanical rooms were later lined by below grade tunnels so that the Texas and Isis could share equipment rooms with the Majestic. The Texan, later renamed the Plaza, had one of the first Carrier centrifugal Freon chillers installed (Serial #6). Registered nurses were stationed at the movie exits to minister to the people who were overcome by the heat and humidity of the Houston summer weather after being in the theater at 70 to 75°FDB and 50% RH space relative humidity and emerging to the brutal 95 °FDB and 95% RH ambient relative humidity outdoor air conditions.

HVAC Systems Installed

- **Air-Conditioned Church** – 1927 – Jefferson Theater, Beaumont, Texas, utilized a centrifugal 150 ton Freon 12 water chilling unit, Serial # 3607 manufactured in Leipzig, Germany in 1926 by C.H. Jaeger & Company for Carrier Engineering Corporation, Newark, New Jersey, driven by a 3,750 RPM, 125 horsepower motor with reduced voltage increment motor starter. The chiller is still in place, but is not operational. The Carrier Buffalo Forge sprayed chilled water coil air handling unit with 5 hp motor is still operational and is a large diameter low RPM type unit with at 12” wide flat belt drive.
- **Air-Conditioned Church** – 1929 – First Presbyterian Church, Orange, Texas, Carrier air handling unit model#K3963006-154C, Carrier job #3183, was commissioned by Mrs. Henry Jacob (Frances Ann) Lutcher as a family memorial. A central power plant had to be included also to provide power for the heating, cooling and lighting because Orange did not have sufficient electricity at that time to provide power; a full time stationary engineer was employed to operate the power and A/C systems.

Refrigeration Industry

- Clarence Fleming started working for GE Research in the HVAC&R industry in 1928 in Tulsa, Oklahoma; however, his work was mostly in refrigeration and he was later to move to Houston.
- Clarence Fleming had transferred to Houston in 1935 while working for Frigidaire. He broke away shortly after he came to Houston to set up his own design building and contracting firm. Clarence was a registered professional engineer in the State of Texas and, with 61 years as a contractor, was one of the oldest active contractors in the state. Some of his early work included refrigeration on boats with water cooled condensers, keel mounted and using gas drive compressors.

Air Conditioning Industry

- Dale Cooper was transferred to Houston in 1935 as chief engineer for G.E. He spent the next two years with the General Distributor in the design and application of several commercial air conditioning systems. During the period from 1934 to 1936 competition from other companies was intense. Carrier and York were the two most active. When a larger commercial job was bid, they proved to be the manufacturer of choice, because they had a established line of larger compressors. General Electric manufactured equipment; up to 30 tons of refrigeration capacity. There were lots of small restaurants, shops, drug stores, residences, and small commercial applications which would fit their line of compressors. Dale Cooper sold G.E. equipment for many of the first applications including The Wright Clinic on North Main Street, Nicosá's Beauty Salon in the Rusk Building, several barber shops, grocery stores, and many River Oaks residences.
- Houston had 33 installed and operating air conditioning system in 1934. This more than doubled in 1935 to 105 operating systems according to a list published by the Houston Chamber of Commerce in June 1935. By the June 1936 issue the number had increased to 130 units. They were installed in 14 residences; nine restaurants, cafeterias or coffee shops; 22 retail shops; nine theaters; three barber and/or beauty shops; four banks, two buildings; three manufacturing/vendors; one funeral home; one night club; 22 business offices and two radio stations.
- In 1936, Dale Cooper, Hollis Bible and James Walsh had found some financial backing from a man named Wilson Seville and obtained a General Electric franchise for the exclusive purpose of promoting their heating and air conditioning in South Texas. They then formed a corporation called The Air Conditioning Company, which was located next to the Delman Theater on South Main Street.

Growth of ASHVE Chapters in Texas

- By 1937 as a national society ASHVE had grown to 22 chapters, with the Texas Chapter being the newest, and ASHVE that year processed 490 membership applications.
- The Texas Chapter was chartered in 1937 and was headquartered in College Station, Texas, with F.E. Giesecke listed as President; Reg F. “Chief” Taylor as vice-president; W.H. Badgett as secretary; Glegge Thomas as treasurer; and J.A. Kiesling, M.L. Diver and C.L. Kribs, Jr. as Board of Governors.
- Reg. F. “Chief” Taylor, P.E. transferred to Houston in late 1938 or early 1939 and worked as a consulting engineer.
- Who was responsible for bringing ASHRAE to Houston? If you don’t know the answer, you should. He was the First South Texas Chapter President, the First South Texas Chapter Hot Air Recorder (HAR) Newsletter Editor and Later became the First South Texas Chapter Society National President.
- His name was Reginald F. “Chief” Taylor, also known as Reg., Reggie and “Chief”.

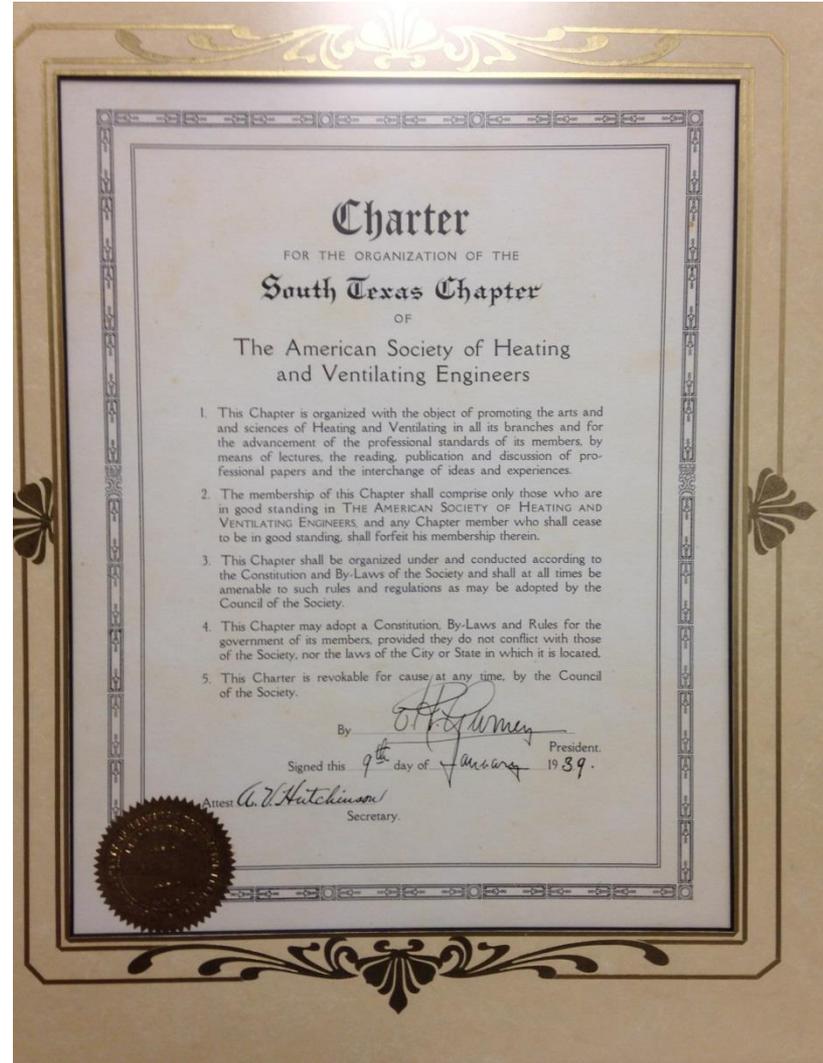
January, 1939 South Texas ASHVE Chapter Chartered

- By 1939, the Texas Chapter of ASHVE had moved from College Station to Dallas.
- The decision was made to split the Texas Chapter of ASHVE into a North and South Texas Chapter.
- Reg. was instrumental in making this change possible. On January 9, 1939, the South Texas Chapter of ASHVE was chartered. Reg. was a charter member and became the South Texas Chapter's first Chapter President.
- Also in 1939 Reg. closed his Dallas office and all of his engineering operations were run from the Houston office. Two of his Dallas employees who elected to stay in Dallas formed their own company, Zumwalt & Vinther.
- We know this South Texas Chapter today as the Houston Chapter of ASHRAE, but in the beginning there were only a handful of charter members.
- Others included Dale Cooper, C.A. McKinney, A.J. Rummel, A.M. Chase Jr. and Bert Fisher.
- In the early years, meetings were held in various cafes around Houston. At times, meetings were also held 100 miles away in College Station.
- The chapter eventually found a club on the west side of town and met there for several years, until it closed. A lodge on Park Place Blvd. was the young chapter's next meeting place. At the lodge, food could be catered in and the chapter could provide the open bar. Next they met on the second floor of Bill Williams on Main Street and met there until the Houston Engineer Scientific Society (HESS) Club opened.

Reginald F. “Chief” Taylor, P.E.



- 1915 Joined ASHVE as a Member, Kansas City BOG Member
- 1937 Inaugural Texas Chapter Vice President
- 1939 Inaugural South Texas Chapter President
- 1944 Inaugural Editor Hot Air Recorder (HAR)
- 1953 ASHVE Presidential Member
- 1967 50 Year Distinguished Fellow Life ASHRAE Member



Reginald F. “Chief” Taylor, P.E.

- He was born in Toronto, Canada in 1889. His parents were originally from England. He was educated in public and preparatory schools in England as well as South Africa.
- Although he never received an engineering degree he served as an engineering apprentice with Stott & Kirby, an architectural engineering firm in South Africa. Back then, drawings were ink on linen. As the story was told, the day before the drawings were due, the “Chief” spilt a bottle of black ink over the architectural rendering of the proposed new building. Shortly after this incident, he was transferred to one of the firm’s survey parties in Zululand & spent ultimately (wonder why?) nine months there where he learned to speak some of the Zulu dialects. In 1908, Reginald moved to Fort Worth.
- Reginald worked the C.A. Dunham Company who manufactured steam traps & other heating products. He then moved to Dallas, where he landed a job with the architectural engineering firm of Lang and Witchell as a mechanical-electrical engineer. In 1914, he held the same position with Smith, Rea & Lovett in Kansas City, Missouri.
- In 1915, he joined a new organization called ASHVE and helped form the Kansas City chapter, where he served as charter member on on the Board of Governors during the chapter’s first year.
- In 1917, he enlisted in the Missouri-Kansas National Guard and after being discharged from the Army, returned to Dallas to work.
- Reg obtained his professional engineer’s license, in 1920 he started his own consulting firm and later opened a branch office in Houston. In 1935, he acted as Chief Engineer for mechanical-electrical design for the Texas Centennial.

RFT Engineering Firm

- Reg.'s firm did an assortment of projects over the years including Texas A&M College dormitories, University of Houston Power Plant/Utility Tunnel, University of Houston Cullen Building, C&I Life Insurance Bldg. (Houston), First City National Bank Bldg. (Houston), Gulf Building (Houston), Lamar Hotel (Houston), Loew's Theatre (Houston), Nabisco (Houston), St. Paul's Methodist Church (Houston), Rice Hotel A/C system (Houston), Houston Chronicle A/C system, San Antonio Express-News, Shrine Hospital (Houston), Veteran's Hospital (Houston), General Hospital and Heidelberg Hotel (both in Baton Rouge), Beck Building and Veteran's Hospital (both in Shreveport).
- Reg. F. Taylor's offices were located in the Banker's Mortgage Building.
- Over the years the Chief's employees a veritable "Who's Who of Houston Engineers" including Israel A. Naman, Otto Hoker, Bob Sallinger, Baker Lee Shannon, Joe Lee, J.E. Burton, H.L. DeVines, C.A. Shoals, H.L. Cauvel, Lacy Key, R.R. Kreichbaum (who later changed his name to Robert K. Ritner), M.F. Frost, A.O. Hogen, Jim Franklin, C.F. Reihland, Grover Moore, Pete Yates, Frank Seymore, Gerald David, Herbert Price, Ken Elliott, Gene Riehl, Buddy Riehl and R.E. Chrono, to name a few.
- Clarence Fleming helped Chief out in the early years by writing some of his early refrigeration specifications.

Hot Air Recorder

- Reg. continued his involvement with the chapter. Reg. encouraged his employees to be active in ASHVE. In addition to “Chief”, there were always a handful of his employees at every monthly meeting.
- In October, 1944, he pioneered the idea of a monthly newsletter to communicate with the chapter members of ASHVE and created the first newsletter in ASHVE titled The Hot Air Recorder (HAR) newsletter and was the first editor. He maintained the position of Editor Emeritus until 1974.
- In addition to being one of the finest publications of its kind in Society, having won the Region VIII Best Newsletter Award a total of four times – twice with Herb Wahlers, Jr. as the Editor, once with David Hull as the Editor and once with John Walik as the Editor – the Hot Air Recorder celebrated its Golden Anniversary during Society’s Centennial celebration year. The HAR was one of the first monthly chapter newsletters in Society. It was started with a seven page hectographed edition in October, 1944 with Reg. F. Taylor as Editor and H.L. DeVines as Technical Editor. The first year there were eight issues; the second year eight issues; the third year it increased to nine issues and the fourth year (1948) had 10 issues. At that time the other newsletters being published were the Oregon Diffuser, the Golden Gate Fog Dispenser, the Texas Norther and one other unidentified newsletter. The earliest edition that the Houston Chapter has a copy of is the April, 1948 issue.

“Chief”

- Reg., as well as many other chapter members, attended the ASHVE convention meetings that were typically held in New York or Chicago. Train travel was the best mode of transportation available at the time, but typically took a few days to reach their destination. During those long train trips Reg. and his wife Lucille formed many relationships with other ASHVE members and their wives. Rumor has it that, on occasion, he entertained other train passengers by singing “Three Blind Mice” in the African dialect he had learned in Zululand.
- Soon Reg. became interested in society level positions. He was elected member of the Society’s Council for a three year term from 1947 through 1949. Afterwards he successfully held the Society Offices of Treasurer, 2nd V.P. and 1st V.P. In 1953 Reginald F. Taylor became the first Society President from our chapter.
- Reg. was also instrumental in getting the 60th Annual Society Meeting to be held in Houston in 1954. The meeting was held at the Shamrock Hotel on South Main. Even with his active involvement with ASHVE, Reg. still had a business to run.
- Reg. was an avid bowler and would bowl on occasion with other ASHVE members such as Charles Quin and Don Robison. Reg. helped start an ASHVE bowling league. His team was called the “T” squares. Another hobby of Chief’s was toy trains. Reg. also liked to visit his ranch in Pipe Creek, northwest of San Antonio.

In Memoriam

- In 1957 Reg. F. Taylor merged with Bovay Engineers. This was in keeping with the trend of the profession toward larger, more fully integrated firms. In 1958 Reg. F. Taylor was made a fellow of ASHVE. In 1967 he was made a 50 year Distinguished Fellow Life Member.
- On September 17th, 1974, Reginald Taylor passed away at the age of 85 and was buried at the Houston National Cemetery. His last residence was the Bayou Manor Retirement Community on South Braeswood. He had no children.
- Reg.'s dedication to ASHRAE spanned over 60 years. His contributions to our Society have helped this chapter become the single most important technical society in our industry. Everyone involved with ASHRAE in Texas, especially in Houston, owe the "Chief" a debt of gratitude for his foresight, dedication and diligence to our Society. He should always be remembered as one of the most important men ever associated with our chapter.

HVAC&R Growth

- Our chapter's officers helped to install the San Antonio Alamo Chapter officers in 1940.
- University of Houston, 1946, Department of Air Conditioning and Refrigeration started Technical Training Program for HVAC&R industry with a two year Associate Degree which was later expanded to a four year Bachelor of Science degree plan.
- Jim Ibison joined ASHVE in 1938 and continued to be an active member 65 years later. He was born September 12, 1912 in Greenwood, Arkansas. He graduated from the University of Arkansas with a degree in mechanical engineering in 1937.
- He got a commission in 1936 and became a second lieutenant infantry officer. In 1940, Jim was given the opportunity to join the Construction Quartermaster Corps. His first project was to rebuild an old World War I base in Fort Lee, Virginia. Shortly after this project was completed, Jim changed his insignia to that of the Corps of Engineers since they took over construction responsibilities from the Quartermaster Corps. He was a Post Engineer for several bases in the 1940's, building and maintaining bases across the country
- When the Air Force became a separate branch of service, Jim became an Air Force officer. Jim retired from the Air Force in 1966.
- He first joined the Oklahoma City Chapter of ASHVE and eventually joined the Houston Chapter in 1946.
- Jim went through the chairs with the Houston Chapter in the early 1960's. He became president of the chapter in 1966. Jim's experience in the construction industry was not limited to the military alone. He worked for Westinghouse for 17 years and was in sales for several years, but, arguably, his most notable HVAC undertaking started in 1967 while working for the Houston Independent School District.

HVAC&R Growth Continued

- His responsibility included air conditioning over 200 schools in the district. The budget for this massive undertaking was 46 million dollars. During the peak of construction, work progressed at a rate of three to four schools being completed each month. For an elementary school it took approximately 16 to 19 months per project at a cost of approximately \$130,000 per school. For a secondary school it took 18 to 20 months per project at a cost of \$450,000 per school. When it was all said and done, over 55,000 tons of air conditioning was installed by approximately 23 different mechanical contractors after being designed by over 32 different consulting engineers and the project came in 2 million dollars under budget!
- The City of Houston proclaimed May 16, 1983 as the “Jim Ibison Retirement Day” because he set an example of responsible leadership by duties he undertook as Director of Professional Services and Construction as H.I.S.D.
- The Shamrock Hotel, built in 1949, with 37 air conditioning systems and 55 ventilation systems, was a premier facility that used a high pressure high velocity “basic” or primary air system with a unique type of face and bypass damper for individual room units, furred in under the windows. Lithium bromide was used to dehumidify the “basic” air to about 35% RH and then sensibly cooled by the chilled water coil or heated by the heating water coil. This “basic” air was mixed at the room terminal with the outside air reduced through the specially designed aluminum window sill. At outside air temperature below 70 degrees F the very dry “basic” air was heated to maintain comfort. As the outside air dropped to below 43 degrees F, the room unit heating coil was energized to maintain comfort. It worked well, but was never duplicated, and the razing of the Shamrock in 1986 did away with the only system of that type ever installed.
- Houston hosted the 1954 Society 60th Annual Meeting and later the 1982 Society Winter Meeting & ARI Exposition at the Shamrock Hotel and Astrodome, with A. Damon Gowan, General Chairman.

ASHVE & ASRE Combine to ASHRAE

- In December of 1954 the ASHVE national membership voted to change its name to ASHRAE. The South Texas Chapter of ASHAE combined with the Houston ASRE Chapter to become the South Texas Chapter of ASHAE in 1954 during Clarence Fleming's and H.D. Broadwell's terms as chapter presidents. The chapter had two sets of officers for the next six years until 1958 – one ASHVE and one ASRE. Then ASHAE and ASRE merged in 1959 at the Winter meeting during Hugh D. McMillan's, Jr. P.E., term to become ASHRAE.
- The first edition of the ASHRAE JOURNAL was published in March, 1959 and number issue 3. Our chapter name change from The South Texas Chapter to The Houston Chapter was noted on the newsletter masthead between the January and February, 1959 issues of the Hot Air Recorder, probably as part of the merging societies



*Recognizes
the contributions to the Society
and to the process of technological advancement
for the public good
by the members of the*
Houston Chapter
on the occasion of the
75th Anniversary
of the chapter's chartering
Chartered: January 9, 1939

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. P. H.", written in a cursive style.

Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "William F. Balflout", written in a cursive style.

President