

## Origins of the New Jersey Chapter – the Early 1940's

By Robert Daly, P.E. – Chapter Historian

The New York section of ASRE recognized the number of active members from New Jersey in the late 1930's. As a tribute to them, a meeting was held at P. Ballantine & Sons brewery in Newark, New Jersey. 259 members attended and heard Fred Ophulus speak on "Brewery Refrigeration."

The New York Section chairman of ASRE in 1939-1940 was Carl Kayan\*. He was a professor of mechanical engineering at Columbia University in New York City. It was his hope to bring about closer relationships between the local engineering colleges and the ASRE section. One of his first meetings was held at Columbia to observe the work being done on the Cyclotron. Because the recent Newark meeting was so successful, the New York section began to hold occasional meetings in New Jersey.

By 1944, the New York section had 525 members. Every other Annual Meeting was being held in New York City. At preliminary meetings in 1944, a group of former New York section members decided that a separate group would be advisable. This was done in recognition of the large refrigeration activities in New Jersey. Preliminary organization plans were worked out by Northern New Jersey members, assisted by a special committee headed by George I. Boone.

Northern New Jersey became the 18<sup>th</sup> section of ASRE. It was granted a charter on September 24, 1944.

The formal presentation of the charter was made at a session held on October 19 at the Robert Treat Hotel in Newark. This meeting was attended by more than 100, gave evidence of the strong support given the section. The outstanding feature of this meeting was the presentation of the charter made by John F. Stone, president-elect of the Society. Mr. Stone's made brief remarks about the value of Society membership and the advantages of discussion at section meetings. H. J. Levins chairman of the new section accepted the charter.

A. G. Dietle, vice chairman in charge of program, then introduced Charles Logan, past president of Society. He "spoke convincingly of his own experience regarding the advantages of being a member of ASRE and the opportunities facing this industry." Helen Peffer, editor of Refrigerating Engineering, urged the use of the national headquarters office by all members. Deputy mayor Arnold Hess then made greetings from the city of Newark.

The main speaker for the evening was Robert Forater. Of the Minneapolis-Honeywell Regulator Company. He presented a movie and commentary on the "Automatic Control of Aircraft."