



Warren S. Johnson Society Newsletter
WSJSociety.com
Vol. 30, No. 1 / First Quarter 2023

Spring 2023 Luncheon
Thursday, April 20, 2023

Alioto's-3041 N. Mayfair Road

NOTE PRICE: \$21 per person EFFECTIVE 7/20/23: \$25 per person
11am-Gathering / 12pm-Lunch / 1:00 program

The luncheon selections are:

- Lemon Caper Chicken with pasta or potato
- Sliced Roast Pork with homemade bread dressing and gravy
- Grilled Chicken Caesar salad with soup or fruit cup.

Each meal comes with:

- Salad with choice of dressing, or soup, or fruit cup (depending on lunch choice)
- Whipped or buttered potatoes
- Italian bread
- Coffee, tea, milk
- Chocolate sundae for dessert

Lunch is \$21 per person.

Please make checks payable to: WSJ Society.

Checks need to arrive by April 13, 2023

Mail checks to:

WSJ Society
P.O. Box 1425
Grafton, WI 53024

Please let us know of any dietary restrictions you may have when making your reservations. Or, contact Jim Pasterczyk, VP Program at 414-764-8609.

Program

**Sara Tomilin, Executive Director Forest Home Historic Preservation Association
Forest Home Cemetery & Arboretum**

A Home for the Dead and Park for the Living

To most people, describing a cemetery as a park would seem odd. Yet in the 19th century, cemeteries were designed to serve both purposes. Milwaukee's Forest Home is a fine example of an exceptional garden-style cemetery from this period. The 189 acre Cemetery is located on the near south side of the city, in a densely populated neighborhood with little public green space. In 2021, it was designated as Milwaukee's first accredited level II arboretum.

Our guest will talk about many remarkable burials (beyond the Beer Barons), as well as Forest Home's natural assets. In addition, you will learn ways to enjoy these historic and beautiful grounds through tours, events and other activities.

President's Message



Your JCI Archives

I was recently involved in connecting our retiree Arn Quakkelaar to the JCI Historian/Archivist Kenneth Wirth - Associate Director, Global Records Management and Archives, about some very old thermostats that Arn had on plaques in his JCI office. He wanted them to find a good home rather than maybe being discarded later by someone not knowing their history. Arn wrote an article about these that will appear either in this newsletter or a later one.

This leads me to suggest that you may know about any similar items that could benefit from a similar path. Either you may have them yourself, or know of them in a fellow JCI retiree's possession (who may not get to read this). The item may mean something to you, but will it to your kids or grandkids if they have to sort through boxes of "stuff"? I've been down that path with my parent's treasures/trash and would have appreciated the guidance, or a prior donation to a more appreciative recipient.

For example: This is a pre-1900 Johnson electric thermostat that I took off the wall of a house built by Milwaukee's Mayor Hoan (the guy the Bridge is named after). I saved it from the trash when my MSOE –



Triangle fraternity remodeled the house for its use, decades ago. The house was not too far down Kilbourn from where Warren Johnson lived around that time. So could our founder actually have had his hands on the Mayor's thermostat? Also the wooden backing has various paint marks from prior room colors. Since my Great Grandfather was a painting contractor, the local Alderman, and a good political friend of Mayor Hoan, (they made a joint trip to Germany in Feb 1929 to christen a ship named Milwaukee), could he also have had his hands on this thermostat? Obviously, we can't ask any of them now, so this is just hypothetical musing. Since I have a few other connections to this particular item, I'm not sure it's ready for donation just yet. But now that I have taken the time to write a brief story about this thermostat, I think I'll tape a copy to its back as possible guidance for whomever is deciding on its next transition.

So if you know of any materials that may be of value to JCI's history, Johnson has an official keeper of these Archives in Kenneth Wirth. If you are not ready to part with them just yet, maybe you can put a copy of this article in the box with them – your heirs may appreciate the suggestion.

-Gene

About the WSJ Society

The WSJ Society is a social group of people who share career experiences at Johnson Controls, Inc. The Society brings its members together to enjoy and help each other; and contribute to community. Activities of the society are described at the website: www.WSJociety.com.

This Newsletter is published quarterly to contribute to those goals. Member stories and ideas are welcomed and encouraged.

OFFICERS:

Gene Strehlow	President
Jim Pasterczyk	VP Program
Mary Kehoss	VP Membership
Brian Bould	Treasurer
Dave Anderson	Secretary
Otto Mageland	Website

DIRECTORS:

John Meyer
Carol Lomonaco
Richard Schreiner
Jude Anders
Greg Pascucci
Erica Wolfe, Ex-Officio

For membership information and dues payment, please contact Brian Bould, Treasurer Email: bbould@att.net
Checks should be made payable to **WSJ Society**, and mailed to:

WSJ Society
P. O. Box 1425
Grafton, WI 53024

For street or email address changes, and items submitted for publication in the Newsletter, please contact our Newsletter Editor:

Mail: **Erica Wolfe**
Newsletter Editor
5207 Robinwood Lane
Hales Corners, WI 53130

In Remembrance

William Rootham passed away peacefully in Sydney Australia at the age of 99.

He began his career as a sales engineer in Toronto and retired in 1988 as executive vice president. He is survived by his wife Pam, his 5 children, 3 stepchildren, 16 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren.

FUTURE PRICE INCREASE

Beginning with the July 20, 2023 luncheon, the price will increase to \$25 per person. This will hopefully avoid a number of \$1-2 increases and should also give our VP Program more options for menu selections to offer you.

"Stat Story"

"Stats" to most people refer to statistics, numbers, facts, data ... but to a retiree of the Johnson Controls Systems Division, it relates to T-Stats (Thermostats) or H-Stats (Humidistats). You are probably familiar with the story of Professor Warren S. Johnson's invention of the first "Electric Tele-Thermoscope" which was in fact the first visible "face" of his Control System which was patented in 1883. But there's much more to the story.

In the late 1880's and 1890's, Professor Johnson's Temperature Control Systems were considered a great luxury and were acquired by only the wealthy for use in their homes, hotels, businesses or public buildings and were considered elegant features of comfort and luxury. Examples started in Milwaukee with the Pabst Mansion (1889), Pabst Brewery Offices (1889), Pabst Hotel (1891), The Pabst Building (1891), The Pabst Theatre (1895), The Pfister Hotel, Milwaukee's City Hall and the Schlitz Brewery ... all eager to provide the most comfort, luxury and elegance of indoor environmental control.

At the turn of the 20th Century, Stats were installed in famous buildings throughout America:

- In 1894, 14 Stats were installed in the Fogg Art Museum of Harvard College in Cambridge, MA.
- In 1905, 68 Stats were installed at the famous War College in Washington, DC.
- In 1908, 128 Stats were installed in the world's tallest building at that time, the Singer Sewing Machine Company on Broadway in New York City.
- In 1910, Stats were installed in The Ritz-Carlton Hotel in New York, a hotel seen as the most elegant and luxurious of the best hotels in the world.

It was during this era (1913-1915) that The Pantlind Hotel (now called The Amway Grand Plaza Hotel) was built along the Grand River in Grand Rapids, Michigan. It was designed by Warren & Westmore Architects who also designed the lavish Grand Central Station in New York City. In 1925, the Pantlind Hotel was declared to be "one of the ten finest hotels in America ... and is an elegant showcase of the Old-World glamour with magnificent crystal chandeliers, gold leaf domed ceiling and brass railings with antique moldings and finials." The ornamental Stat covers were designed with consistent excellence to enhance the ambiance of exquisite charm in the common areas and grand ballrooms. A simpler cover design was presumably used in the 500+ bedrooms.

I began my career with the Johnson Service Company in 1955 as an Intern "Draftsman/Technician" while attending Calvin University pursuing a BS degree in Engineering which was conferred in 1960. I was hired by JCS as its first "Application Engineer" upon graduating, worked in the Grand Rapids office as engineer, Service Dispatcher, warehouse clerk, etc. It was during this time we received a call to service the control system at the Pantlind Hotel and while working on the controls, the maintenance supervisor mentioned there were some old

Stats left over from the hotel's modernization project during 1920's and I asked him to take them rather than throwing them in the junk pile. What a great treasure to JSC ... rescued!

In 1971, I was transferred to Milwaukee headquarters to become Manager of Central Engineering and of course transported the Stats with me and had them cleaned and the covers plated by the Plating Department of JSC. They have been on display in my office until I retired in 1995 ... and then moved to my basement for storage ... NOT an appropriate retirement for Stats. While cleaning out my basement, the Stats were found, and they are very eager to go on display again in the Johnson Controls Archives.

Often as a JSC/JCI employee I would enter a building, the first thing I would look for is the Stat ... the "Face" of the Control System, to see if the building had the finest Temperature Control System in the world. They were easy to find ... usually next to the main door into a room five feet off the floor ... a T-1000, T-400 or a T-4000 (now a "Smart Stat"). It somehow made me feel "at home" in those buildings.

I am delighted with the response from Gene Strehlow when I told him of my "Stat rescue" and desire to give them a new home. He put me in touch with Ken Wirth – Company Historian and asked if I would write the "Scope/Stat Story" for the WSJ Newsletter. It is an honor to share these memories and mementos of JSC/JCI History.

Arnold "Arn" Quakkelaar - PE, CSE & Author ... JCI Retiree



TIME?



..... YES, and time to renew your membership!

Keep in touch with your life-long work associates via the Newsletter! **Annual Association membership dues are \$5....** You may choose to pay several years in advance or pay a **lifetime membership of \$50** as over 500 members have chosen to do. Annual printed Newsletter Subscription = \$6/yr. New members (only) paying after September 1st will be credited for both the current and next year. Send dues money to Brian Bould. Not sure you've paid your dues? Check the **first line of this issue's mailing label**. In addition to your name, it identifies **the last year for which you paid dues** (2018, 2019, Life).

MEMBERSHIP ENTITLEMENT COMES WITH 10 YEARS

If you are retired from Johnson Controls or still working there with 10 years of employment, you are eligible for membership in the Johnson Controls Retirement Society.

Send your membership fee to our treasurer, Brian Bould. The address is listed inside this newsletter.