



by
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This issue of the magazine has been dubbed the "post-conference" issue during its make-up by the editors. The EEIC was held Sept. 18-22 in Chicago. Since this was the time frame for mailing our Sept./Oct. magazine, this issue, Nov./Dec., was the first one that could include the news of the Electrical Insulation Conference.

The cover features John Merrell, who was inducted into the Hall of Fame. The background on John is found in the EEIC News section. Tom Castaldi, the general conference chairman, has written a running account of the conference. Watching Tom put down the words for this running commentary while being pressed from all sides by conference needs was a sight to behold. Most of us need some quiet and seclusion in order to put our thoughts on paper! The pictures indicating the activities of the conference were provided by Jeff Bell, the official conference photographer. Unfortunately, we do not have the pages to print the hundreds of images of the conference taken by Jeff. To appreciate his skills, one has to see the slide show of the awards banquet.

The transformer session at the EEIC was an important component of the conference. This issue has two technical articles on transformers, one by Kan and Miyamoto on the improvement of transformer diagnosis using dissolved gas analysis, and the other by Eleftherion on the detection of partial discharge in transformers by acoustic techniques. Outdoor

insulations suffer from degradation due to contamination by dirt and/or salt fog. Cherney has an article on the use of RTV silicone to overcome this problem. Steve Okonek in the EPRI Report also discusses the evaluation of room temperature vulcanized silicone coatings. Finally, an interesting article has been submitted by Yasufuku on *p*-aromatic polyimide film for dielectric applications. This new material has made possible some new devices, which are being put on the market.

A comment needs to be made on our new area code in eastern Connecticut. We mentioned in the last issue that our area code has changed from 203 to 860. The change is being made slowly, so the old area code, 203, will still work until next April, even though the new one is now the correct code to use. However, we have found through unfortunate experience that some foreign callers/faxers are not getting through on 860. Apparently, according to what we have heard from our local phone company, this is because older switching equipment does not recognize the "6" in the middle of our new area code. Older equipment expects to see a "0" or a "1" there instead. We haven't yet heard how this is going to be resolved! If you have trouble getting through to us on 860, please try 203 instead, for the time being. By April, we hope that the bugs will be worked out.

—John Tanaka and Lucinda Weiss



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