History of our "Specifics"

In the very beginning of the S.F. chapter we were aware of the need to publicize the chapter news. In the minutes of Organization (first mutual meeting) F. Bourne Payne agreed to write articles and handle the publicity for the San Francisco chapter.

This was continued from 1955 to 1958.

When the Calif. Chapters (Sacramento, L.A., L.D., S.F.) decided to publish a joint newsletter "The Specificists Digest" F. Bourne Payne wrote many noteworthy items ad even some one liners like the one you can find in the 1st Annual meeting minutes.
Sept. 24, 1955: It was: "The value of an education is to teach men how little they know." By this time, Bourn Noyne was also known as S.F. Chapter Editor.

By 1959, George Lomb was appointed as the first Executive Director and established an office in Washington, D.C. and the "Specification Digest" began a long decline in popularity as seemingly the ability to get published on time with much of anything but S.F. Chapter News.

This lead to a design of a S.F. Chapter publication by Tom Hubbard: "The Golden Gate Bridge."
signified the Chapter and we were no longer known as the S.F. Bay Area Chapter. Our name had changed to S.F. Chapter. The first issue of the S.F. Chapter Specifier, a 4-page, 5x7" black ink on white paper, came about in Jan. 1964, at a cost of about $1.00 for the 200 copies we needed at that time to cover our complete mailing list plus National & all the organized chapters.

Today we have a new format—a multicolor, multipaged, monthly publication that sells advertising to help defray the expense.
The 4th National Convention - 1960

This is generally known as the S.F. Convention but it was held in Palo Alto, April 25-26-27, 1960.

Having obtained our Chapter Charter in 1954, and with Calif and Region "11 having the largest membership in the organization in 1958, California and especially S.F. Bay Area Chapter wanted a Convention held in San Francisco. To a large delegation of Calif people went to the 3rd Annual Convention in Chicago and obtained the O.K. from CSI to have the 4th Annual Convention.

The Jack Tar Hotel was under construction but was due to be open March 1960. So with
Scrap 1-A.

Any way Cleveland Ohio chapter had not been chartered until June of 1956 and they were having the 2nd National Convention.
the best laid plans ad the blessing of all the 35 chapters of CSI, and at $2000 membership we were appointed ad condemned to have the 1960 convention.

With Leonard Twizl as President ad Ted Nishman as Vice President ad M. Harrington a Convention Chairman, we were off and running. This was the first year that the National ever & have a Specification Competition at a National Convention.

This was also the year when the do-it-yourself CSI members had & learn to live with a professional Operating Director. Because George Hams had been hired as the first in 1959.
Anyway in the 4th National Convention everything was done at least 3 times. First it was done by the committee of the Epic Diet. Then it was done by the other ad finally as a cooperative agreement between the two. However it was not easy and only possible because of the National President Jack Stein & James C. Post both from Chicago.

The other problems developed as a result of the Jack Fox Hotel not being completed on time.
Exhibit space for the Annual Convention.

Since we had already found out that we were not going to be in San Francisco because the Jack Tar Hotel was not going to be complete. Panic talk and ad we finally found Rickey's, Palo Alto. The tower at Rickey's had just been completed and was bright and new so we had more than enough room to house the convention. The Rickey's also had beautiful grounds and a swimming pool area that would make a wonderful setting. (That by the way is another story).

Anyway the only problem was exhibit space.
After much discussion we hit upon a wonderful idea. A Circus Tent in the parking lot. It would have no problem. As everybody knows it never rains in Calif before Oct. 15th, not after April 15th, and here we had a good ten day leave as the convention was not to be until April 25-26-27.

We had a one of our CSI (Shuffle) machines convinced Richie's that they needed to resurface the parking lot with Black Top. And after much negotiation agreed that CSI would make a financial contribution to the total cost. Soooo with all of their good plans now agreed upon, we were
not only happy with our new arrangements. (And less remember we had only been dumped by the Jack Tar fleet a few weeks earlier), we were expectant. But here's how it turned out.

1. Our new amateur director told all of the exhibitors that we would have a plywood floor to put the exhibits on. Now who ever heard of a Circus tent with a plywood floor beside we had blown all our money on the black Top parking.

2. Then the Circus Tent arrived the Stuart Co put the tent in the center of this new and beautiful black Top parking lot. And everybody looked and said, "Hey! This is really going to be O.K."
But we still had more revelation to follow.

3. You remember I told you it wouldn't rain because we don't have rain at that time. Well it did rain. Yes! every day – I mean all three days.

The beautifal rain then found out drained to the center of the newly installed Black Top so we not only had the water that hit the tent area, but everything that had been coated rain water into the exhibit Tent. Now you can had to listen to a salesman's pitch on the virtues of a warm dry widget while both of you are standing in front of him, Exhibit booth in water about shes top deep. Even ??
The Tuesday Night Rain

Here we have a beautiful evening. It has rained most of the day. Do not all of the convenience aids soaked the exhibitors. And in the evening as per plan we are cocktailin on Mai Tais and simlar cold & fruity concoctions. The rain of course had stopped early to have a cold drink before come up. Should have been said and probably was. That the evening wind had blown the rain away. In fact it could have been said it was too cold to rain.
Chapters were formed.


002. District of Columbia-Metro. 1953

003. Chicago 1953

004. Los Angeles 1953.

005. Sacramento 1954

006. San Diego 1954