first heard of AISE when I was a maintenance shift foreman at Eastern Stainless. Charles A. Earnest, the maintenance superintendent at the time, showed me Iron and Steel Engineer magazine and encouraged me to join AISE. I read the articles and used the information where applicable. In those days, it was not possible to find technical information easily, like it is now with the Internet. In the old days, research for projects meant a lot of digging in college libraries, and I do mean a lot of digging.

“Over the years, I attended the annual conventions when I could. I learned much from the technical presentations and exhibits. My company encouraged me to attend seminars on various technical subjects — all were very valuable to my career, especially as an engineer and maintenance manager. You just can’t get that information anywhere else!

“I am delighted to say that I am still active in AIST, and I was able to give something back by writing a paper for the AIST Crane Symposium entitled ‘Heads Up for Tapered Tread Crane Wheel Users.’

“When I started in the industry in 1955, there was a lot of manual labor input. I have seen many operations become automated. Safety is much more emphasized now. In 1955, we didn’t even consider hard hats, non-flammable clothing or asbestos exposure. But I do know we were very cognizant of our surroundings and fast on our feet!”

Stebbing recalled the photo (top left photo on next page) of a smokeless slab-cutting torch arrangement, which was important because it replaced open-air torching of the slabs that emitted huge amounts of smoke into the atmosphere. Stebbing invented a conveyor that used a dust collector suction arranged under the cutting area so the smoke was immediately captured at the source.

“I believe steel quality will continue to improve, by removing localized
internal stresses. I also believe steel will use more recyclable materials similar to how steel scrap is recycled now; I am thinking about scrap tires and plastics and other carbon-bearing waste materials that can provide chemical energy or charge carbon. I expect that steel will be sprayed into 3D products, similar to 3D layered printing that uses plastic materials now. It would work similarly to sprayed strip. I cannot imagine a time when steel will not be essential to the myriad of world products!

“I found steel to provide the greatest career I could imagine! I started out with very little education or experience at age 18. While working, I was encouraged to attend school and take on as much responsibility as I could handle. I eventually became an engineer with heavy experience in multiple disciplines: mechanical, electrical, structural, environmental, metallurgical, quality, etc. There is no place like a steel mill to stretch the equipment or the people to the maximum limits. It is difficult work, but the satisfaction and rewards are tremendous. I became a man there. I supported seven wonderful kids on my steel mill salary so my wife could be a stay-at-home mom and raise them. All of them are successful — two of my sons, Doug and Scott, and one grandson, Josh, are career steel mill men.”