



# 1994 PRESIDENT



## HARRY E. FOLLWELL • IRON & STEEL SOCIETY

Board of Directors sine 1987.

Harry and June Follwell reside in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. They have two children and two grandchildren. Their son, Jim, serves with an armor squadron in the Royal Canadian Dragoons of the Canadian Armed Forces. He recently returned from the Middle East, where he served as operations officer for the United Nations Truce Supervisory Organization in South Lebanon. Their daughter, Joanne, is an associate analyst with the Bank of Montreal in Toronto.

*I&SM* visited with Harry during the record cold wave this past January to discuss how the ISS has helped him and how, as president, he will help the ISS.

***I&SM:*** Do you plan to concentrate on any particular area of the Society during your year in office?

***FOLLWELL:*** Membership. The membership drive is really starting to gain some momentum. And, having a steel castings background and knowing a number of people in the steel foundries, perhaps membership is an area where I can contribute. Show that there's something in the ISS for the foundry industry. Hopefully, we'll be able to expand the Society's sphere of influence by making more foundry employees aware of the ISS and the benefits of belonging.

***I&SM:*** What can we offer foundries?

***FOLLWELL:*** Our Electric Furnace Conference deals strictly with melting and associated processes of refining, including refractories and maintenance. We offer the melters in foundries a forum to talk strictly about their thing. Other associations spend a lot of time on sands, sand reclamation, cores and molds.

Some of the innovations that have occurred in the larger electric furnace shops in the minimills are applicable to smaller scale operations. You're looking at a 10-ton furnace instead of a 150-ton furnace, so you have to scale things down, but there are things the foundries

can learn from the minimills, and our Electric Furnace Conference is the only place where foundries and minimills get together.

***I&SM:*** Has your membership in the ISS benefited your company?

***FOLLWELL:*** Yes, it's been extremely helpful. For example, I was involved in setting up a new melting practice for a material we had never produced before. I called one of my ISS friends to ask for help because his melting practices are very similar to what we do. I asked him, "What do I have to watch for?" "What are the kinds of things you'd do?" "What are the pitfalls?" And it was just a matter of three hours that I got back nine handwritten pages by fax.

***I&SM:*** You saved your company money?

***FOLLWELL:*** Certainly. You don't really learn everything from a book. There are so many things that you can learn. Little tricks. I mean these aren't necessarily very technical, they just happen to be effective. And, if that's true, then one or two ideas pay for every conference you attend.

***I&SM:*** Any other goals for your year in office?

***FOLLWELL:*** Obviously, I would like to leave the Society stronger than I found it. I don't know if that's possible in one term, but that's always been the aim of everyone who has taken the president's job. How do we make it stronger? Perhaps by continuing some of the initiatives begun over the past three years, and allowing them to mature before we try and add more to our plate. I certainly want to continue the membership initiatives that began under Grant Schneider.

I would like to continue the education emphasis begun during Frank Hultgren's term. Encouraging students at the undergraduate level to study metallurgy and make their home in the iron and steel industry is something that we have to do.

A third initiative, begun during John

Harry E. Follwell, who became the president of the Iron & Steel Society this month, brings a unique perspective to the post. He is the first ISS president to come from the steel castings segment of the industry.

For almost 30 years Harry worked mainly in Dofasco's Steel Castings Division in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. From 1984 until his retirement from Dofasco in late 1992, he served as project metallurgist – specifications, quality assurance and technical service. Soon after Harry retired, Dofasco closed its Castings Division. In early 1993, the plant was purchased by National Castings Corporation of Lisle, IL, and reopened as Dominion Castings Ltd. Harry joined Dominion Castings in June 1993 as technical sales advisor.

Harry's involvement with steel castings led him to the Electric Furnace Division, where he has been active since it became part of the Iron and Steel Society in December 1974. Over the ensuing 20 years, he worked his way through the division's various committees. In 1986, as chairman of the Electric Furnace Conference Committee, Harry was responsible for putting together the program for the 44<sup>th</sup> Electric Furnace Conference in Dallas, TX. One year later he became chairman of the division. He also has been a member of the ISS



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Holditch's term as president in 1991, is "Maintenance as a Process." This effort has given people who deal with maintenance problems over the entire spectrum of iron and steel processing a forum to discuss their problems and innovations. Matters dealing with electric furnace maintenance are addressed at the annual Electric Furnace Conference, while those dealing with rolling mill maintenance can find information at the Mechanical Working and Steel Processing Conference. The Ironmaking Conference and the Steelmaking Conference also have programs dealing with the specific needs of these people. "Maintenance as a Process" is probably the most mature of the recent activities, and seems to have established itself very well. However, the other two efforts, membership and education, still need a lot of work.

**I&SM:** Besides being the first member of the steel castings industry to serve as ISS president, you also will be the president during the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.

**FOLLWELL:** Yes, that's right. It's interesting because the first time I gave a paper was at the first ISS run Electric Furnace Conference in Pittsburgh in 1974.

**I&SM:** Do you have any thoughts about how far the Society has come over the past 20 years?

**FOLLWELL:** I think the scope of the papers has become much more international. I can remember the year I was chairman in Dallas, I think 19 countries were represented at that conference. Everything from Canada to Zimbabwe. It was really an amazing group of people. It was interesting.

**I&SM:** Why do you think foreign participation has increased?

**FOLLWELL:** I think the Iron and Steel Society now is becoming, though we may not exactly be there yet, the preeminent technical society for iron and steel in

North America. The ISS has signed technical cooperation agreements with The Iron and Steel Institute of Japan, the Brazilian Society of Metals, the Chinese Society of Metals and others. The recognition worldwide by these other societies, by these other metallurgical groups, is a source of pride for anyone who has ever been associated with the Iron and Steel Society. If you're involved, no matter how small or great it was, you've had a hand in it.

**I&SM:** Are the local sections something that you're going to spend time on?

**FOLLWELL:** I'd like to be able to talk to each of the divisions. I do plan on trying to attend some of the committee meetings in the divisions, not just meet with their executive committees. And I certainly will be at each of the conferences.

**I&SM:** Meeting with the members is important to you, isn't it?

**FOLLWELL:** I think that's part of my job. It's not the whole thing, but it's an important part of it. I think that what we have to be able to do, better than we have done in the past, is listen to the needs of the members.

If we don't listen to people at the local level, we will never reach the goal of being the best technical society in the iron and steel industry. What do the local people, the local representatives, want in the way of programs? How do we do it? These are questions we must answer if we are to remain a vital force in the industry.

**I&SM:** So, you're not set up here as president to pontificate from on high?

**FOLLWELL:** Oh, no. You tell me what you want to do. I don't want to tell you what we're going to do. Never. It can't work that way. We have to get members to tell us what they want. And that is the challenge.

**I&SM:** How are you going to do this?

**FOLLWELL:** We need to make sure that

members do know that they can come and talk to people who are involved at the board of directors level, or whatever office of the Society. They can come to a board of directors annual meeting, and they can have the floor. It's not a closed shop. It's not the old boys club. It can be done.

I would encourage members, any member, to call or write to me. I have no problem with listening to people's concerns and trying to answer their questions regarding the ISS. Listening to new ideas would be great. If we can get people to give ideas, we would only strengthen our Society, and that'd be super. *I&SM*