

Introduction: The Halm Symposium

GORDON K. RAY

The Harold J. Halm International Symposium on Concrete Pavement Construction was sponsored by the Committee on Rigid Pavement Construction and Rehabilitation (A2F01). The committee includes four international members, who were added to the membership in 1986. This addition created an interest in concrete pavement construction techniques and equipment in other countries around the world. There were some committee members who felt that much could be learned by a session of papers from the different countries in which concrete pavements are built. As a result, all of the international members were invited to submit such papers for a symposium to be held in 1988.

The response from the members and contacts with other countries through the Technical Committee for Concrete Roads in the Permanent International Association of Road Congresses (PIARC) enabled the committee to organize this session. We are fortunate to have four foreign papers describing concrete pavement construction in South Africa, West Germany, Spain, and Japan, as well as a paper on the state of the art in the United States. The committee also felt that this international symposium, the first of its kind to be organized by a committee of TRB, should be dedicated to Harold J. Halm.

Harold had been a member of the committee from 1964 to 1983. He served as the committee secretary from 1973 to 1980. During Harold's time with the committee, he was a leader in encouraging new ideas, new methods, and new equipment, but he also always encouraged quality construction. He was a spark plug, always suggesting sessions, papers, and summer meetings in an effort to disseminate new information to engineers who worked with federal agencies or state, county, and city departments of transportation.

Harold was a pavement engineer with the Portland Cement Association from 1958 to 1964. He helped organize the American Concrete Pavement Association in 1964 and became its first executive secretary. Harold made sure that one of the association's principal objectives was the improvement of the quality of concrete pavement construction.

Harold Halm died of cancer in 1985. His death at the peak of his career was a big loss to the concrete paving industry. Harold's absence from the committee (he had been a "Friend of the Committee" since his departure from the committee proper in 1983) was felt by all of the members. The committee

unanimously adopted a resolution at the 1987 TRB Annual Meeting to name this symposium for Harold in tribute to his many contributions to the committee and to the concrete pavement industry.

We are pleased that TRB has honored him by approving this session and planning this Record to include all of the papers presented so that they will be available to everyone who is interested in this subject.