

Albert G. Bear*, FCSI

"In recognition of your distinguished and dedicated service to The Construction Specifications Institute, as a founding member, as a co-founder of your Chapter, as a member of the National Board and as General Chairman of the joint Conference of Regions 4 and 5, wherein your organization and devoted effort and your contagious enthusiasm resulted in the formation of the New Orleans, Baton Rouge and Shreveport Chapters, and in furthering effectively the work of The C.S.I., you are advanced to fellowship in the Institute on this 25th day of April, 1962."
Atlanta, Georgia



ALBERT G. "PAPA" BEAR was a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania with a degree of Bachelor of Science, Architecture. He was a consulting architect and engineer, with practice limited to the writing of specifications, and was a qualified expert in courts of law on matters pertaining to his profession.

Bear was employed in government service in Washington, DC in 1948 when the Construction Specifications Institute was being formed, and joined the small group of Charter Members of the Institute. Upon retiring from government service he returned to New Orleans where he became one of the first specifications specialists in the New Orleans area. In 1958 Bear helped form the group responsible for founding the New Orleans CSI Chapter. After its chartering in May, 1959 he served as its first President. In 1960 Bear was elected to a three year term as a Director of the Institute. During his term as Director he helped charter the Baton Rouge and Shreveport CSI Chapters.

In 1961 Bear chaired the CSI Region 5 Conference. It was at this conference that the CSI Panic Whistle tradition was born.

Papa Bear, as he was affectionately known, regularly carried a New Orleans police whistle. He used the whistle to make certain that all events started and stopped on time. He used a blast from the police whistle to get the undivided attention of conference participants. He said that the whistle moved them along and kept the conference on schedule. At the end of the conference he presented the whistle to Bernard B. Rothschild, FCSI, who was to be Host Chapter Chairman of the 1962 Institute Convention in Atlanta. His instructions were simple: "Use the whistle as necessary to ensure that the Convention runs smoothly."

At the end of the Convention the Atlanta CSI Chapter passed the whistle on to the Detroit CSI Chapter, naming the whistle "The Albert G. Bear Convention Chairman's Panic Whistle" as a symbol of the Host Chapter Chairman's authority.

Bear is remembered by his contemporaries at the Institute as "...a soft-spoken, slightly portly gentleman, with a rumpled suit and pince-nez glasses, who defended his position on any subject in a sonorous, deliberate, filibuster, cloaked in a genuine southern accent."

CSI Membership

Joined CSI in 1948

Institute Offices, Committees

Director, FY1962

Chapter Offices, Committees

President, New Orleans Chapter, 1957

Awards

Institute President's Plaque