

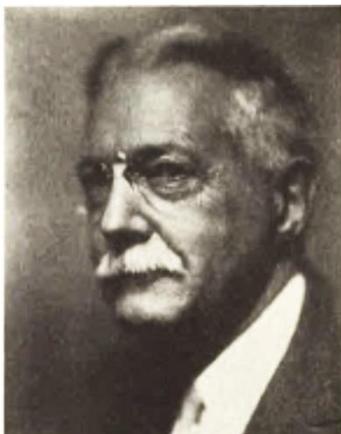


For the last 100 years, the Cordage Institute has been dedicated to the advancement of rope and cordage products.

After several years of feeling the rope industry was in great need of an active association which would represent the cordage industry, Mr. F. A. Bryant of New Bedford Cordage Company took a leading part in the organization of the Cordage Institute.



On June 17, 1920, a group of rope manufacturers met in New York City to establish the Cordage Institute. At the first-ever Cordage Institute meeting, the members spoke of their appreciation “for [Mr. Bryant’s] untiring efforts on their behalf and fully appreciate that only through his patience and hard work has the organization been brought into existence.”

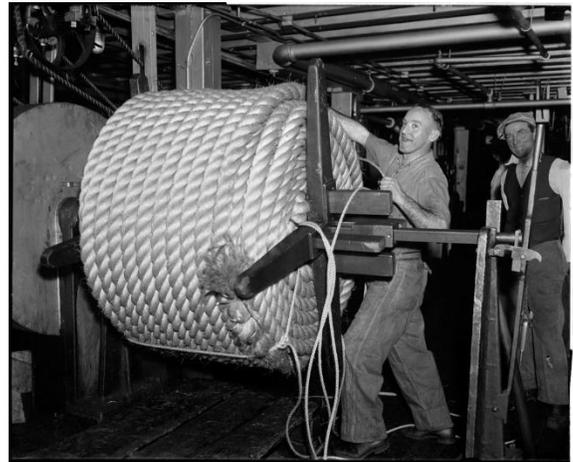


At this same meeting, the membership elected F. C. Holes of Plymouth Cordage Company as its first president, and H A. Whitlock of Whitlock Cordage Company as vice president.

The organizing members of the Cordage Institute consisted of Columbian Rope Company, Consumers Cordage Company, Hooven & Allison Company, R. A. Kelly Company, New Bedford Cordage Company, Peoria Cordage Company, Plymouth Cordage Company, E. T. Rugg Company, Tubbs Cordage Company, Wall Rope Works, and Whitlock Cordage Company.

In 1930, the Cordage Institute represented the industry by presenting briefs and arguments before the US Congress on behalf of the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act, which raised import duties to protect American businesses and farmers.

During World War II, the Cordage Institute served its country well. Immediately after Pearl Harbor, the Institute worked hand-in-hand with the Defense Supplier Corporation, the Department of Agriculture, and the United Fruit Company to plant 25,000 acres of abacá in Panama. The manila fiber generated from these plants allowed rope manufacturers to keep up with the military's demand throughout the war.



In the 1970s, the cordage industry saw an increasing trend towards automation. Advances in technology allowed machines, more so than ever before, to perform multiple operations at a single location simply at the touch of a button.



No history of the Cordage Institute is complete without mentioning Gale Foster. Gale served as the Executive Director of the Cordage Institute from 1985 to 1999, and as Technical Director from 1999 to 2004.

Around this time, the government decided to get out of the specification Mil-Specs business and use industry standards, and Gale led the Cordage Institute and its members to establish a working Technical Committee to put together standards, guidelines, and publications to meet the needs of the industry and government.

In the 1990s, the Cordage Institute expanded to include almost anyone who participated in the industry (e.g. manufacturing, associate, academic, etc.) and gave all of the groups a fair opportunity to participate in the functioning of the organization.

By the end of the decade, the Cordage Institute established or strengthened relationships between the Cordage Institute's Technical Committee and the other associated organizations in the US and abroad to allow open discussion of differences in technical conclusions and standards.

In 2001, the Board of Directors established an Award of Merit, which was later named in honor of Gale Foster, who sadly passed away on February 1, 2011. The award is given to those



who have shown invaluable service and outstanding contributions to the organization and to the industry. Award recipients include Nick Christakos (2001), Don Puckett (2002), Gale Foster (2004), Bill Hagenbuch (2006), Tom Yale (2018), and Sim Whitehill (2019).

For over 100 years, the Cordage Institute has been a benefit to its members through the development of international standards, guidelines, test methods, and technical documents, the collection of data and statistics, and serving the industry as a whole.

Now with over 70 members, and a long list of accomplishments, the Cordage Institute has been shown to be an organization that is aware of every new and critical situation facing the industry, and that solves problems facing not only rope manufacturers, but also the raw material suppliers, distributors, and consumers as well.

