CROSBY FIELD AWARD

Colonel Field, as he was called by his friends and admirers, was born in 1889 in Jamestown, New York. In 1909, he received a B. S. degree from New York University and three years later an M.E. degree from Cornell University. In 1914, he was awarded an M. S. degree in electrical engineering from Union College, and later, studied chemical engineering at Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute.

Following his graduation from Union College, he joined General Electric Company’s Test Program, working for a time under Dr. Steinmetz in the Protective Apparatus Laboratory. Here he developed several inventories including the Oxide Film Arrestor. From 1914-15, he was in private practice as a consulting engineer until associating as Chief Engineer with Standard Analine Products Company from 1915-17.

From 1917-19, he served in the U.S. Army, Ordnance Department in various capacities from Major to Acting Chief of the Explosives and Loading Section, Inspection Division. Following World War I, he joined National Analine and Chemical Company as Engineering Manager in charge of all engineering including construction, maintenance, power plant, appraisal and engineering research.

From 1923 to 1942, Colonel Field was a Vice President, Director and Secretary of the Brillo Manufacturing Company, during which time his invention of the automatic single pass machine for the production of steel wool completely revolutionized the industry. One of his machines did the work of 250 machines of the type superseded. By a constant program for the development of new products, he was able to avoid any appreciable technological unemployment, actually increasing the total number of employees.

In 1938, Colonel Field was President of ASRE. He was first elected a Director of the Society in 1932 and remained on the Board for 12 years. He was a frequent contributor to *Refrigerating Engineering*, and was a contributing author of a chapter in the *Refrigerating Data Book*.

Concurrently, during this period, Colonel Field was President of the Flakice Corporation and introduced Flakice frozen water ribbons, helping to make the small ice industry of today possible. He returned to active duty in the U.S. Army in 1942 as Assistant Director of Safety, Office of Chief of Ordnance with the rank of Colonel.

Affiliated with ASME since 1915, he was elected Fellow in 1938. He also served as Fellow of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, and a Past-President of ASRE, as well as numerous other engineering societies and fraternal bodies.

Colonel Field received the U.S. Legion of Merit in 1946 for his work in safety methods in the loading of ammunition. His manual for investigators, “The Study of Missiles Resulting from Accidental Explosions,” published in 1947, was later adapted, and is still in use by the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission Division of Operational Safety.

In 1953, Colonel Field was awarded the ASME Medal for “his high engineering skills and inventions which established and expanded industries and made invaluable contributions to improved designs and production techniques in may fields.” He was also named Honorary Member and became a Fellow of ASME. He was named an Honorary Member of ASHRAE in 1961, and in 1968 received the ASHRAE F. Paul Anderson Award.

Colonel Field passed away September 20, 1972 at the age of 83.

The Crosby Field award was established in 1973. This award is for the highest rated paper presented at a Technical Session or Symposium for the Society year. The award consists of a $750 honorarium and plaque.