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HISTORY OF DIXIE SECTION

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INSTITUTE OF FOOD TECHNOLOGISTS

The Dixie Section was formed as a result of the efforts of Dr. Roy E. Morse, formerly professor of Food Technology at the University of Georgia. He envisioned an organization to unite people working in various food fields in this region. Having located thirteen national IFT members, the Dixie Section was officially organized in October 1948, with Dr. Morse as its first president (See appendix I). The national charter was granted May 21, 1950, with 50 charter members and was the 17th IFT section recognized. Annual Dixie Section membership dues were \$1.00 and the cost for a steak dinner at a 1953 meeting was \$1.50 (including tax and tip).

The Dixie Section originally encompassed five states - Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. The Section's first printed membership directory was distributed in 1955. Membership continued to increase even though North Carolina became part of the "new" Carolina Section formed in 1964 and Tennessee seceded to become the Volunteer Section in 1970. Dixie Section's membership reached the number necessary to authorize a second Councilor in 1965, a third in 1978, the fourth in 1980, the fifth in 1981 and sixth in 1986 (See appendix II). Over all, the membership of the Section has increased from the 50 charter members in 1950 to 871 in 1987. This total includes 699 members classed as professional, regular, emeritus, and associate member and a student membership of 172.

The meeting center for the Section generally is Atlanta in view of the large portion of membership in Georgia. However, meetings are held in other location as deemed appropriate. The current meeting schedule is: three (3) in Atlanta, one (1) in Clemson, one (1) in Athens, one (1) in Alabama, and one (1) rotating to another area. Meetings have been held in Columbus, Macon, Auburn, Huntsville, Brunswick, and Savannah in recent years. The annual student awards and recognition banquet was held at the Continuing Education Center on the University of Georgia campus into the 70's. Since then, award night meetings have been alternated between the University of Georgia and Clemson University. Several technical sessions and symposia have been held in conjunction with the Clemson meetings. Because of the distances to be traveled by many of our members, meetings in the past have usually been scheduled on Fridays. However, in the past few years meetings have been held on other nights. Although the constitution provides for a minimum of five meetings a year, six to eight have been routinely scheduled.

Since the mid 1950's, it has been traditional that a symposium or a tour of a commercial or manufacturing plant, an educational institution, or a laboratory, precede the business meeting. A dinner and evening program are held at which time an invited person speaks on some aspect of the food industry. Over the years, the background of speakers and the topics presented have varied considerably. For example, a 1954 presentation "Food and Drug Inspection" by Mr. J. J. McManus is notable because Mr. McManus had been hired in 1908 by FDA's famous Dr. Harvey W. Wiley to serve as one of his early workers. Also notable was the 1957 presentation on "Effects of a Nuclear Explosion on Packaged Foods and Beverages" by Dr. J. Sharf, one of the scientists actually studying the various "violent" effects of nuclear

explosions on commercially packaged foods and beverages during the 1955 Continental A-Bomb tests. Since the 1970's Dixie Section has continued to enrich the tradition of bringing in outstanding dinner speakers by including (usually for the December Supplier Night meeting) a Scientific Lecturer from IFT's Speaker Bureau. As a consequence of the diversified activities and interests of our members, it has not been difficult to schedule tours, programs, and speakers which have been educational, interesting, and entertaining to all. Therefore, guests are a rule rather than an exception at Dixie Section meetings, and many of them become members.

During the mid 60's to early 70's, the Dixie Section of IFT continued to grow in size, attendance at meetings, and numbers of National IFT members. This was due to an increased number of food technologists and scientists locating in the area covered by Dixie IFT. The food industry was expanding, the USDA Russell Research Center in Athens was staffed, and the number of positions in Food Science and Technology and related disciplines at the various colleges and universities in the Dixie IFT area was increased; e.g., Alabama A & M, Auburn University, Clemson University, Emory University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Troy State University, Tuskegee Institute, University of Alabama, University of Georgia, and University of South Carolina. During this time, more attention was given to meeting at locations outside Atlanta.

The Dixie Section has been distinguished with three of its former chairmen having been elected to serve as National IFT's 37th, 47th, and 48th presidents. The most recent, Dr. Roy E. Morse, Dixie Section's organizer and first Chairman (1948), served as IFT President 1987-88. Dr. John J. Powers served as IFT President 1986-87; and Dr. John C. Ayres served 1976-77. In a unique coincidence, during Dr. Ayres's 1975-77 years as National IFT president-elect and president, his son, Dr. James L. Ayres, served as Dixie Section's chairman-elect and chairman! In 1974, Dr. Huda Lillarad became the first woman to be elected Dixie Section's Chairperson.

Since 1970, a dozen past and present section members have been elected Fellows of IFT, four have received one or more National IFT awards, four have served as Scientific Lecturers, and five have served as OSPA-Regional Communicators for the states of Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina (See appendix III to V).

In 1975, the December meeting was designated as Supplier's Night and a special effort has been made at this meeting to welcome suppliers and their guests in the Dixie Section area. From a small beginning in 1975, Suppliers' Night participation has continued to increase, due in no small way to the enthusiastic Suppliers' Night chairmen who have guided the event. The 1987 event included 60 exhibitors and attracted over 225 IFTers and guests.

Dixie Section archives indicate officers of the Section approached IFT in 1954 with hopes that the Section would be selected to host an IFT National Meeting in Atlanta in the "near future". Dixie Section's wishes became reality in 1981, when it hosted its first IFT National Meeting and Food Expo at Atlanta's World Congress Center, ... and then again, in 1985. We, the members of Dixie Section - IFT, are looking forward to repeating this portion of our history in 1994. Please plan to join us in Atlanta in 1994, which will be the 44th year of our IFT charter.

revised: 2/25/88 (T. C. Titus)

PAST CHAIRPERSONS
DIXIE SECTION
INSTITUTE OF FOOD TECHNOLOGISTS

1948	Roy C. Morse	1968	Farris E. Ashe
1949	J. Carlos Mills	1969	Roy C. Hege
1950	John J. Powers	1970	James E. Marion
1951	Richard D. Haynes	1971	James A. Christian
1952	J. Orvin Mundt	1972	J. H. Mitchell, Jr.
1953	Sam R. Cecil	1973	Chris J. B. Smit
1954	C. D. Schiffman	1974	Huda S. Lillard ¹
1955	J. G. Woodroof	1975	James C. Acton
1956	T. W. Kethley	1976	James L. Ayres
1957	A. S. Perry	1977	Larry R. Beauchat
1958	Charles Lovvorn	1978	Romeo T. Toledo
1959	William B. Cown	1979	Terry C. Titus
1960	Ralph M. Bohn	1980	Charles H. Brokaw
1961	A. J. Shingler	1981	Robert J. Rini
1962	William L. Beale ⁻¹	1982	Ronald R. Eitenmiller
1963	Miles Hess	1983	Andrea Lee Wade
1964	G. Frank Phillips ⁻²	1984	James O. Stroup
1965	T. S. Boggess	1985	Manjeet Chinnan
1966	W. C. Mickelberry	1986	George A. Schuler
1967	A. Lorne Shewfelt	1987	Marshall K. Hill
		1988	Ronald W. Blaschke

¹ Unexpired term completed by Dan Henry.

² Unexpired term completed by T. S. Boggess.