Sprinkler Irrigation / Irrigation
Six Editions from 1955 to Present

1st Edition - 1955
2nd Edition - 1959
3rd Edition - 1969
5th Edition - 1983

Go to page 7 for more information.
Fred Kruse started Kruse Fertilizer Service in 1960 and was incorporated as a retail fertilizer business in Mason County, Illinois, USA. A severe drought in 1965 was devastating to the farmers in Central Illinois. In this same year a prototype of a traveling sprinkler created by Bart Nelson of the L.R. Nelson Co. in Peoria, Illinois, was demonstrated on the Glen Strube farm near Easton, Illinois.

In partnership with Deane Behrends; Fred completed a new prototype of a traveling sprinkler that was considerably different from the Nelson device. Ten units were sold that year. Then in 1967 a decision was made to create a new company and that is when Ag-Rain, Inc. was formed. The name “Water-Winch” was registered at the same time as a trademark.

And the rest is history.
Cardboard Computers

Did you know?

The slide rule is a mechanical analog computer. The first basic slide rule was invented in 1630 by William Oughtred of Cambridge, England. The one that we recognize today was created in 1859 by French artillery lieutenant Amedee Mannheim.

Answer on Page 7
A Brief History of Middletown Sprinkler Company

Bob Dobson founded Middletown Sprinkler Co. in 1968 and currently serves as its president. His wife Judy has been the office manager of Middletown Sprinkler for the past 32 years and his son Rob serves as vice president of the company. His daughters Kelly and Colleen, along with grandsons Henry and Jack, make up the rest of the Dobson family.

Bob was raised in Middletown, New Jersey, USA where his family has lived for the past 157 years. He went to high school there and then to a local college on a math scholarship.

Bob is an IA Certified Irrigation Designer for residential, commercial, and golf course irrigation systems and an IA Certified Irrigation Contractor.

Bob currently serves as President of the Irrigation Association. He is a recipient of the IA’s Industry Achievement Award, the Irrigation Association of New Jersey’s Lifetime Achievement Award, and was recognized by the EPA with the WaterSense Excellence Award. A true pioneer in irrigation contracting, thanks Bob.
Did you know?

The history of Australian irrigation started with the Goulburn Weir in 1877. It’s a rich and fascinating history.

Contact Irrigation Australia.
www.irrigation.org.au/
In the 1970's, Dr. Jackie Robbins, an Agricultural Engineering professor at Louisiana Tech University, noticed his students and faculty were having difficulty finding micro irrigation products they needed for their studies and projects. To make the needed products readily available, Dr. Robbins became an irrigation dealer. Soon others became aware of the availability of the products, and he began selling these products from his home in Ruston, Louisiana, USA. Little did he suspect that he had paved the way for his and his family’s future. The business was incorporated as Robbins Association/Irrigation-Mart, Inc. in 1989, as Dr. Robbins prepared to retire from his career at Louisiana Tech. It was at this point that Irrigation-Mart really began to grow.

As of January 2013, the company celebrated 35 years of being a “closely-held” family business with the Robbins family fully involved in the day-to-day operations of the business. Irrigation-Mart has approximately 30 well-trained employees, including certified irrigation designers, agronomists, landscape horticulturalists, and registered professional engineers. Irrigation-Mart focuses mainly on agricultural and forestry irrigation (more in horticultural than agronomic sectors). They stock irrigation and related products from over 200 manufacturers in their 2-acre warehouse, servicing over 10,000 entities/clients/customers worldwide annually.

Irrigation-Mart’s full-service staff designs and supplies the materials for projects in the vegetable, fruit, nursery, landscape and forestry industries. At times they help assemble and/or supervise installation of these materials. They pride themselves on being able to advise the user not only on what products to use but also on the proper methods of monitoring and operating in order to obtain desired benefits/results. Their main strength comes from their in-depth understanding or “SAVVY” of irrigation and related technologies.

Irrigation-Mart, 200 South Service Rd. East, Ruston, Louisiana, USA 71270
Phone: 800-SAY-RAIN Fax: 318-255-7572
www.irrigation-mart.com

"Big results often begin with small thoughts."
- Dr. Jackie Robbins
Sprinkler Irrigation / Irrigation - Six Editions from 1955 to Present

The Editors Over The Years

First Edition - April 1955
1. Allan W. McCulloch - Chairman, SIA Technical Committee
2. John F. Schrunk - Chairman, SIA Education Committee

Second Edition - September 1959
1. Guy O. Woodward - Editor

Third Edition - September 1969
1. Claude H. Pair - Editor-in-Chief
2. Walter W. Hinz - Extension Agricultural Engineer
3. Crawford Reid - Technical Consultant
4. Kenneth R. Frost - Professor of Agricultural Engineering

Fourth Edition - November 1975
1. Claude H. Pair - Editor-in-Chief
2. Walter W. Hinz - Extension Agricultural Engineer
3. Crawford Reid - Technical Consultant
4. Kenneth R. Frost - Professor of Agricultural Engineering

Fifth Edition - May 1983
1. Claude H. Pair - Editor-in-Chief
2. Walter W. Hinz - Extension Agricultural Engineer
3. Kenneth R. Frost - Professor of Agricultural Engineering
4. Ronald E. Sneed - Extension Biological & Agricultural Engineering Specialist

Sixth Edition - 2011
1. Robert (Bob) Rynk - Editor
2. Allen (Al) R. Dedrick - Editor
3. LaVerne E. Stetson - Editor
4. Brent Q. Mecham - Editor

The Contributors Over The Years
When you read any edition, you have the most current information possible at the time of publication. For the last 58 years, all six editions could not have been possible without the time and effort of volunteer members of the SIA and IA. Thank you to all of the volunteers over the years for your dedication to our industry.
A Brief Biography of Claude Laval

Claude Laval, who was born in Fresno, California, USA is one of the most accomplished people in today's business world. Claude is married, has two children and his eldest daughter currently runs the company he created.

Claude founded the Claude Laval Corporation and LAKOS Separators and Filtration Systems. For more than 30 years the Fresno-based companies have provided innovative and adaptable solutions for specific filtration issues. LAKOS is a world leader in the water filtration industry.

Claude also enjoys being involved with community affairs and organizations and his daughters have followed his example. He loves to play tennis and is passionate about work.

His support for and advice to Fresno State on water and irrigation issues over the years was recognized by the naming of the Claude Laval Water and Energy Technology Incubator at California State University, Fresno. Operating in conjunction with Fresno State’s International Center for Water Technology, the WET Lab is a vital resource for innovative local entrepreneurs looking to establish or expand their business in water and energy technology and help stimulate the regional economy.

Claude Laval is a pioneer to the irrigation industry and people around the world. Let him know how much you appreciate his hard work and dedication sometime. Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do.
10 Mysteries of the Museum.
1. Hoover Dam in 1935  
2. Center Pivot  
3. Kifco Turbine Motor Drive  
4. Original Rain Bird Impact  
5. Buckner Impact - 1939  
6. Mr. Irv Tank - Rain Aid Controller  
7. 1967 SIA Convention in Scottsdale, AZ  
8. Dayton Irrigation Sprinkler -1913  
9. Hadden Sprinkler  
10. Mr. John Morgan
Did you know?

The oldest drafting tool that has been discovered is a drawing board with a technical plan for a temple in Lagash, Babylon dating from 3,000 BCE.

In 1982, Autodesk created the program Automated Computer Aided Design (AutoCAD) which transformed the process of drafting by making it accessible to more people.
The Irrigation Chronicle Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

4  Wanda's husband
6  You need them for a project
7  A leaking faucet
11  Where the answers are
15  The second name of IA
16  Company started in 1933 in Glendora, CA
20  It's in the center of a field
21  Brass or plastic with a hole for watering
22  Center for Irrigation Technology
23  Industry pioneer and founder of Kifco
24  A fire and lawn sprinkler manufacturer started in Chicago in 1895

DOWN

1  Polyvinylchloride
2  Not the one in the Vatican
3  Turns on and off
5  This company revolutionized the industry with plastics
8  Rhymes with irritation
9  Company started in 1912 in Fresno, CA
10  What this newsletter is about
12  A watering device
13  Considered by some the birthplace of irrigation
14  They make mowers and sprinklers
17  Not a skinny sprinkler but a....
18  Noah's problem
19  What drip was once called or not 'Tickle Me Elmo'....

Go to the museum website for the answers.
Irrigation History Museum Staff - 2006-2013

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* Deceased

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