

Origins of APICS...

**according to Alfred W. Sylvia,
director of the first chapter of APICS - New Bedford**

From its humble beginning in 1957 with just over 100 members to its current membership of more than 68,000, APICS has been the forerunner in manufacturing education. The concept of an organization dedicated to the improvement of production and inventory control techniques, however, originated in October 1953 when manufacturing managers in the greater New Bedford, Massachusetts area came together to form the New Bedford Production and Inventory Control Association.

Over the next four years, the association sponsored monthly meetings which featured guest speakers and round table discussions. In 1957, three production managers who belonged to the association - Elliot Carruth, Edmund Currier, and Isidore (Izzy) Eisner - attended the National Institute of Management Seminar in Cleveland, Ohio, directed by Nyles V. Reinfeld.

During an informal session at the seminar, it was determined that there was a need for a national manufacturing education society. A meeting was scheduled to explore this possibility, and 35 people were invited with 27 attending. At this meeting, APICS was formed and Ron Maddox was named as its president.

In 1958, the three practitioners who "spearheaded" the formation of APICS sought financial aid for the society. After sharing their thoughts, ideas, and goals for APICS with officials from IBM, the company donated \$5,000, with a similar donation the next year.

During the following years, APICS continued to grow and prosper. And in 1962, the vice president of membership and chapter development, Izzy Eisner, in an effort to increase APICS membership even more, coined the phrase "62 chapters in 62". After countless letters and telephone calls, the 62 chapters became a reality.

In 1963, APICS became an International Society with Izzy Eisner as its President. Its international scope was firmly established in 1964 when Canada joined APICS.