



# SOCIETY FOR INDUSTRIAL ARCHEOLOGY

## NEWSLETTER

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### CLEVELAND, AKRON — OUR KIND OF TOWN!



SIA tour buses shrink to matchbox toys before the titanic Goodyear Airdock (1929) in Akron. You don't visit it, you experience it. R. Frame photograph.

*Member of important professional association: "I just returned from our meeting in San Francisco [or New York, Chicago, Honolulu]. How about you?"*

*SIA member: "We were in Cleveland."*

*Important person: "Oh yes...I heard that it's 'back.'"*

It's true, Cleveland is back. We saw ample evidence of that. New nightlife, cleaned-up waterfront. Why, a lot of us went to see the Minnesota Twins play the Cleveland Indians—an important game if ever there was one—and became part of Municipal Stadium's biggest ballpark crowd of the year.

But the SIA came to Cleveland (and nearby Akron) to check out the stubborn, tenacious, obscure—at times obsolete—parts that never left: the industrial plants, some thriving, some now closed, the bridges, canals, and other like objects of normal, IA prurient interest.

There could hardly have been a more fitting choice for the 15th Annual Conference HQ than the famous **Terminal Tower**, opened in

1930, whose subterranean Cleveland Union Terminal once handled over 250 trains per day. Even if you arrived by plane, you still could take rail transit direct to the Terminal and to Stouffer Inn on the Square, located in the Terminal complex. Some of us were lucky enough to have a room overlooking the Cuyahoga River, whose broad floodplain, known as the "Flats," was the site of Cleveland's earliest commerce and industry. Spanned by over 20 bridges in a wide variety of types, this may not be the Cleveland of "Cleveland's back" fame, but it was the Cleveland that some 200 SIA conferees were thinking about as they headed for registration on Thursday, June 12th.

The festivities were launched with a first-rate reception at a loft apartment in the **Bradley Building**, a renovated warehouse in Cleveland's Historic Warehouse District. The Bradley certainly is "back," and provided a terrific twilight view of Lake Erie. A good-natured and well-informed slide lecture by John Grabowski on the city's industrial history eased us into the appropriate attitude for the industrial process tours the next day.

Friday presented the annual round-robin IA tour bus ritual, with  
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