# **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Mount Diablo Section of ASME gratefully acknowledges the efforts of those that contributed to the re-designation of the Fresno Scraper; particularly the San Joaquin County Historical Society & Museum, William J. Adams, Jr., ASME District D, and the original sections in 1991; ASME Fresno/Madera Group and ASME Santa Clara Valley Section.

# **REFERENCES**

In addition to the references listed in the original commemorative brochure, see:

Earthmoving Equipment "Capital of the World" by David R. Stuart San Joaquin County Historical Society, 2011

Garden of the Sun: A History of the San Joaquin Valley, 1772 – 1939, second edition 2004, by Wallace Smith





# THE FRESNO SCRAPER

# RE-DESIGNATION AS A HISTORICAL MECHANICAL ENGINEERING LANDMARK



Lodi, California March 26, 2011

# WHY RE-DESIGNATE A LANDMARK?

The Fresno Scraper, an earth moving device invented in 1883, was first designated a Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmark by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) in 1991. ASME, through its History and Heritage program, selects notable achievements of mechanical engineering for such designation to promote a general awareness of our technological heritage among engineers and the public. For more information about this program, see the inside back cover of this brochure.

Following its original designation, the Fresno Scraper was not made available for viewing by the public and remained unseen for many years. To correct this situation and make this landmark and its designation plaque readily accessible to the public, plans were made, beginning in early 2010, to relocate the Fresno. Championing this effort was William J. (Bill) Adams, Jr., P.E. (Ret.) a former member of ASME's History & Heritage Committee and Life Fellow and Honorary\* Member of ASME. Bill's association with the Fresno dates back many years. In 1905, his father, William J. Adams, at the age of 14, operated a Fresno on a dairy farm near Fresno, CA and went on to develop, patent and later manufacture earthmoving equipment, such as the Ball "Wagon Grader."

The San Joaquin County Historical Society and Museum agreed to accept the historic Fresno and put it on display. To celebrate that action, ASME is re-designating this landmark in its new location. In the four-decade history of ASME's landmark program, during which almost 250 Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmarks have been designated throughout the world, only three have been relocated and re-designated in their new location—the Paceco Crane from Texas to China, the Neuchâtel Gas Turbine from one city to another in Switzerland and now the Fresno Scraper.

The commemorative brochure prepared for the original designation of the Fresno, describing its background and historical significance, is shown herein exactly as it appeared in 1991.

# The History and Heritage Program of ASME

The History and Heritage Landmarks Program of ASME (the American Society of Mechanical Engineers) began in 1971. To implement and achieve its goals, ASME formed a History and Heritage Committee composed of mechanical engineers and historians of technology. The History and Heritage Committee provides a public service by examining, noting, recording and acknowledging mechanical engineering achievements of particular significance. This Committee is part of ASME's Center for Public Awareness. For further information, please contact Public Awareness at ASME, Three Park Avenue, New York, NY 10016-5990, 1-212-591-7020 or visit http://www.asme.org/history.

Since the History and Heritage Program began, nearly 250 landmarks have been designated throughout the world as historic mechanical engineering landmarks, heritage collections or heritage sites. Each represents a progressive step in the evolution of mechanical engineering and its significance to society in general. Site designations note an event or development of clear historic importance to mechanical engineers. Collections mark the contributions of a number of objects with special significance to the historical development of mechanical engineering.

The Landmarks Program illuminates our technological heritage and encourages the preservation of the physical remains of historically important works. It provides an annotated roster for engineers, students, educators, historians and travelers. It helps establish persistent reminders of where we have been and where we are going along the divergent paths of discovery.

ASME helps the global engineering community develop solutions to real world challenges. Founded in 1880 as the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, ASME is a not-for-profit professional organization that enables collaboration, knowledge sharing and skill development across all engineering disciplines, while promoting the vital role of the engineer in society. ASME codes and standards, publications, conferences, continuing education and professional development programs provide a foundation for advancing technical knowledge and a safer world.

#### The American Society of Mechanical Engineers

Robert T. Simmons, P.E., President Mahantesh Hiremath, P.E., District D Leader Clark McCarrell, P.E., Senior Vice President, Centers Willard Nott, P.E., Vice President, Center for Public Awareness Thomas G. Loughlin, CAE, Executive Director

#### **ASME History and Heritage Committee**

Richard I. Pawliger, P.E., Chair William J. Adams, Jr., P.E. (Ret.), Emeritus Thomas H. Fehring, P.E. J. Lawrence Lee, P.E., Immediate Past Chair Terry S. Reynolds Paul J. Torpey, Past President ASME Herman H. Viegas, P.E. Robert O. Woods, P.E.

Corresponding Members John K. Brown, R. Michael Hunt, P.E.

Robert M. Vogel

#### **ASME Staff**

Marina Stenos, Director, Centers for Public Awareness and Leadership & Diversity Wil Haywood, Communications Coordinator, Public Information

#### **ASME District D**

Mahantesh Hiremath, P.E., Leader Ransom Burford, Chair Debendra Das, P.E., Representative Lynden Davis, P.E., Coordinator Satya Mahanty, Representative

#### **ASME Mt. Diablo Section**

Chad Johnson, Chair David Miller Wood, Vice-Chair Isidro Reyes, Secretary Keith Wilson, Treasurer

<sup>\*</sup> Honorary Membership in ASME is a high honor granted only to those whose distinctive contributions to engineering, science, industry, research, public service, or other pursuits are allied with and beneficial to the engineering profession.