

1964:
LaSalle Hotel
LaSalle & Madison,
Chicago, Parlors J & K
- 36 Exhibitors
- 3 Pre-Dinner Seminars
- Mixer
- Dinner: \$5.00
- After Dinner Speaker
*1963 Budget Showed a Profit
of \$300.00*



1965:
LaSalle Hotel
LaSalle & Madison,
Chicago, Parlors J & K
- 45 Exhibitors
- Mixer
- Dinner: \$5.25
- After Dinner Speaker
*Suppliers' Night was "theme" of
the Dinner Meeting*

1968:
O'Hare Inn
Henrici's in Des Plaines
- 60 Exhibitors
- Mixer
- Dinner: \$6.00
- After Dinner Speaker
*Renamed Suppliers' Exhibition
Night - Exhibition 4:30-6:30 PM*



1972-1975:
**Lindheimer Room at
McCormick Place**
- 92 Exhibitors



1976-1982:
Holiday Inn Mart - Plaza & Exposition Center
- 100 Exhibitors
*Afternoon symposium added in 1973 with a speaker before
the Expo*



1983:
**O'Hare Exposition Center,
Rosemont**
- 150 Exhibitors
- Hours expanded to
2 PM to 6 PM

1986:
**Dinner Meeting
Canceled**
After Expo due to Chicago
Bears vs Los Angeles Rams
on Monday Night Football
*(Bears lose 20-17 in
final seconds)*

1988:
Schedule Changed
1:00-3:05 PM
Mini-Workshops
3:30-7:00 PM
Suppliers' Night
- 250 Exhibitors
*Dinner Meetings Stayed on
Mondays, but Expo moved to
Wednesdays*



1990:
**Joseph Stout, Skidmore
Sales, Begins his Reign
as Suppliers' Night
Chairperson**
(1990-2010)
Minus a couple of years...



**Technical
Symposium Added**
1:00-3:30 PM
Technical Symposium
3:30-7:00 PM
Suppliers' Exhibits
- 340 Exhibitors



2008:
Innovation NOW! Forum Added
8:30 AM-Noon
Innovation NOW!
Noon-6:00 PM
Exhibit Hall

2012:
**Over 500 Booths
Sold, Over 3000
Attendees**

Suppliers' Night 1963-1969

Suppliers' Night 1970-1979

Suppliers' Night 1980-1989

Suppliers' Night 1990-1999

Suppliers' Night 2000-2012

1964:
Beatles appear
on Ed Sullivan

1966:
ABC, CBS & NBC
offer color TV
programming

1965:
Japan's "Bullet
Train" begins
operation

1968:
Richard Nixon
elected
President

1969:
Neil Armstrong
walks on the
moon

1972:
Apollo 17
becomes the last
manned mission
to the moon

1976:
America
celebrates its
Bi-Centennial

1977:
the movie
"Star Wars" is
released

1981:
IBM introduces
the Personal
Computer (PC)

1985:
"New Coke" hits
the market

1986:
McDonald's and
Burger King stop
frying in beef
tallow

1993:
Mississippi River
flooding devastates
the Midwest

1995:
O.J. Simpson
Acquitted

1996:
Mad Cow
disease hits
Great Britain

1997:
Dow Jones
Industrial Average
plummets 7%

2002:
DHS Formed

2004:
Facebook
launched

2005:
Hurricane Katrina
devistates the
Gulf Coast

2009:
Pop icon
Michael
Jackson
dies

Dawson Sales was founded in 1954 by James C. Dawson, formerly a sales executive with The Campbell Soup Company, with a focus on selling canned goods. 'Just a humble peddler,' he would often refer to himself.

Jim started Dawson Sales after he and his wife Violet moved back to his home town of Chicago from Sioux City, Iowa. In the 1960's the company began focusing on the sale of industrial ingredients such as sugar, selling into both the industrial and retail ("Nickels & Dimes") channels.

Over the years, the list of companies represented by Dawson Sales began to grow into a "Who's Who" of Blue Chip producers of value-added food ingredients and commodities culminating in the organization headed today by Jim's daughter, Diane Dawson, who joined the company in 1982. Ms. Dawson also served as Chicago Section IFT Chair from 2009-2010.



"I'll always remember following Jim late one afternoon into the large bar at what was then (if memory serves) the Pick Congress Hotel on South Michigan Avenue, then the sight of that years Bakery Engineers conference.

Pausing to survey the room, resplendent in a three piece grey chalk stripe suit, he motioned a waiter over to him and while slipping him an impressive quantity of crisp twenty dollar bills instructed him to begin serving champagne, to EVERYONE in the bar. "I'll tell ya when to stop," he smiled, "Just keep it coming." An hour or more later, as the bar had filled beyond its capacity, I looked around and there was Jim. Moving from table-to-table, from group-to-group. Shaking hands. Telling a story or a joke. Laughing it up. I also noticed the champagne was STILL flowing VERY freely and EVERYONE was having the greatest of times.

Champagne Jim. 'The Prince of Chicago.' I Thank You for my career."

Jim Anderson

The Mullins family has been a presence in the Chicago food industry beginning in 1934 when Harry J. Mullins began bottling and selling his signature "Prairie Chef BBQ Sauce" from the family's west side tavern.

Harry's sons, Edward and Jack, would go on to build a family legacy in the Chicago food industry. Jack took up the reins of Mullins Food Products while Edward created E.J. Mullins Inc. in 1964 and was the first company specifically devoted to selling and servicing industrial food companies with commodities and specialty ingredients.

Over the years no less than six of Edwards's children would follow him into the business. Tim in 1978, Mark in 1984, Molly in 1986, Meg in 1988, John in 1990 and Terrence in 1992.



E.J. Mullins Co., Inc.

"I met Eddie Mullins in 1972. He impressed me as being energetic, dynamic and inspirational. At the time he was already a sales legend and his very presence struck awe in a young fella like me.

I once sat next to Eddie at an IFT dinner and he shared with me what a great lineman the late Frank Sacamano (a colleague of mine at the time) was in high school.

Now Frank was a quiet and reserved type but later, when I shared the story with him without identifying where I had heard it, he got very animated and replied 'Did you hear that from Eddie Mullins!? Don't believe a word of it!' Of course, we all knew it was true."

Joe Stout



Due to the ongoing Great Depression, Hobart J. Thurber, Sr. was let go from his sales position at a Chicago area ingredient manufacturer in 1933. He guessed correctly that other ingredient companies faced with a slowdown in business would welcome the chance to fix their sales costs by hiring an independent sales organization. Thus was born the Hobart J. Thurber Company, the oldest manufacturer's representatives of Food Ingredients in the Midwest.

Founded in 1933 by Hobart J. Thurber Sr., some regard The Thurber Company as the first brokerage firm to specialize in the sale of industrial food ingredients. Hobart J. Thurber Jr. (Craig's father) followed Senior into the business in 1946 followed by Scott Thurber (Craig's brother) in 1972, Craig Thurber himself in 1975, and Brian Thurber (Craig's son) in 2011.

"I never met Mr. Hobart Sr. but Craig has shared so many stories and pictures, I think I really do know him. Not only did he start a business during the toughest of times (the Great Depression) he started a whole new business category: Food Ingredient Broker, probably one of the first in the U.S..

I imagine he may have worked with Swift & Company, Armour & Company and Peter Eckrich Company and many of the other processors operating around the thriving Chicago Stock Yards on the South Side."

Joe Stout



Chicago Section IFT • Chicago, IL



Celebrating 50 years
of Service to the
Chicago Area
Food Industry