

WARNER'S CORNER

TIME—OUR MOST PRECIOUS ASSET



JAMES WARNER

An old German maxim says “too much we learn too late.” The problem is: learning takes time. So do all the other activities of life; work, rest, bureaucracy, family, and hopefully some play. By the time we have gained considerable knowledge, our useful life is approaching its end. We must thus use our life reign wisely to maximize our knowledge and usefulness. Because of time

limitations, we must restrict our activities to those that are most beneficial. Certainly, formal education is valuable. Likewise, practical education by working in the field and exchanging ideas with our tradesmen and laborers is of untold value. Then comes participation in professional and trade organizations such as ACI and ICRI. Unfortunately, these last activities not only require our time, but also monetary expenditures as well.

As I look back over my life, participation in trade and professional organizations, although the most expensive in terms of both time and dollars, has yielded the greatest benefit. Not only have I gained abundant knowledge from conversation and discussion with peers, but I have also become acquainted with experts in virtually every area of interest, enabling me to inquire of them when my own knowledge is deficient.

With the emergence of ICRI, we now have an opportunity not always available—participation in our specific area of

special interest: repair and restoration of structures. Not only does such participation facilitate our own learning; it also provides us the opportunity to share our experiences with others. Committee work requires the expenditure of both time and money. It does not always result in immediate tangible benefit, but long term, there is no activity that returns greater value.

The true professional is generous with his time. He shares his experience with his peers and contributes to advancement of the state of practice. We are fortunate indeed to be able to serve actively in ICRI. Such service benefits the industry at large, and yet, the greatest beneficiaries are we, ourselves.

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