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## Supervisors' conference

Mary J. McCann

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# Supervisors' Conference

by **Mary J. McCann**  
**Kansas City**

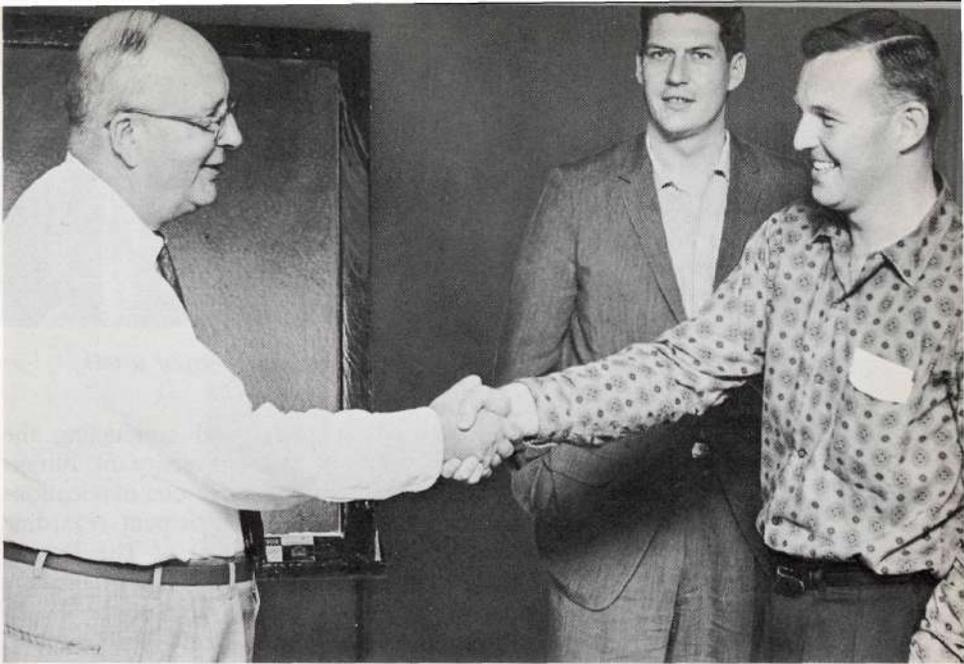


**SUPERVISORS' RESPONSIBILITIES**—that was the theme of the third Touche, Ross, Bailey & Smart Supervisors' Conference held at The Homestead, Hot Springs, Virginia, June 20 to 30, 1960. Twenty-seven supervisors and managers came from eighteen cities in the United States; Toronto and Montreal in Canada; and Mexico City for these eleven days of intensive education.

For several weeks before the Conference the participants had been receiving advance information on the program, problems to solve, cases to study for discussion, and lists of advance reading material.

The program of the Conference was designed to develop and to emphasize the responsibilities of the supervisor as a professional person, as a businessman and administrator, as a technically competent accountant, and as a representative of the firm who is well acquainted with all aspects of its services. Consequently, the program covered a wide range of subjects: management services and sciences, business development, professional responsibility, communications, firm administration, business combination, services to financial institutions, income taxes, auditing philosophy and techniques, retail accounting and auditing, and accounting theory.

No doubt the most valuable asset of the Conference was the distinguished group of discussion leaders and lecturers who conducted the sessions. The ratio of discussion leaders and lecturers to participants was almost one to one. There were twenty-five men—Touche, Ross, Bailey & Smart partners and personnel, educators, and guest



*Jackson W. Smart welcomes Gerry Hillis (center) and Al Dilworth, both from our Toronto Office, at the start of a conference session.*

lecturers—conducting the twenty-three sessions singly or in pairs. All are authorities in the particular areas which they were discussing.

The partners who contributed their talents to the Conference were:

Donald J. Bevis  
Roger R. Crane  
Donald H. Cramer  
Thomas J. Ennis  
Milton M. Gilmore  
H. James Gram  
Donald W. Jennings  
Wallace M. Jensen

C. Alvin Koch  
Kenneth P. Mages  
Walter F. Renz  
Jackson W. Smart  
E. Palmer Tang  
Robert M. Trueblood  
Herbert Weiner  
William W. Wertz

They were assisted by the following personnel of the firm:

Joseph F. Buchan  
Bernard J. Cianca

George G. O'Brien  
Hans J. Shield

Willard C. Westover

The twenty-one persons from within the firm were joined by Professor Ronald F. Salmonson, professor of accounting at Michigan



*Stan Gullixson, Al Dilworth and Les Buenzow enjoyed a talk.*

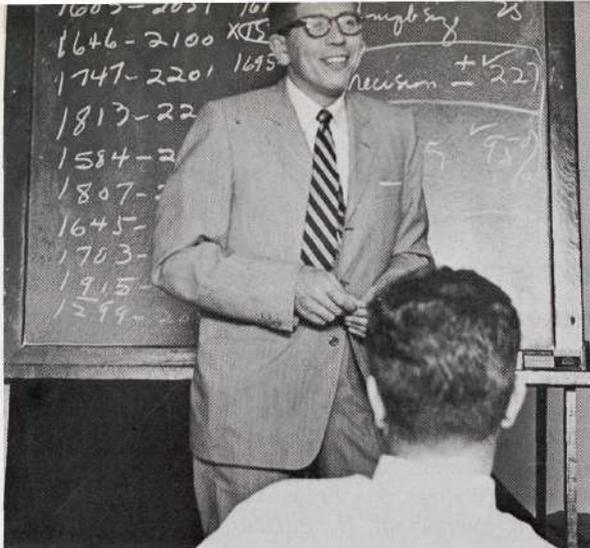
State University, who assisted with planning and conducting the Conference; Professor Francis Weeks of the University of Illinois who assisted in conducting the sessions on effective communications and held a thirty-minute conference with each participant regarding his writing; Milton J. Drake, Senior Vice President of The Detroit Bank & Trust Company, who spoke on the relationship of bankers and auditors; and Edward Tomlinson, for many years the South American correspondent for the New York Herald Tribune and author of the recent book "Look Southward, Uncle," who gave an enlightening talk on the Americas to the south.

In most of the sessions the leaders presented specific information to the group or offered case studies for discussion and then brought the group into a round-table discussion. These discussions were enhanced by the wide and varied experience of the participants. Many of the discussions became so interesting that they were carried on beyond the sessions and probably were taken back to the local offices.

Although these eleven days were devoted mostly to education and professional development, there was still ample time for all the people at the Conference, participants and leaders, to become acquainted with one another. This opportunity to make friends with the others and to discuss mutual problems was one of the most valuable benefits—and one of the pleasures—of the Conference.

The Homestead, a fine hotel in the beautiful Allegheny Mountains of Virginia, provided an ideal setting. Everyone enjoyed not only excellent living and working accommodations but also—in their free time—the many fine recreational facilities of the hotel.

Attending the Conference was a rewarding, once-in-a-lifetime experience. Each person privileged to attend surely left the Conference with confidence that he would be better able to carry out the supervisor's responsibilities and with a stronger challenge to continue his professional development.



*Partner Robert Trueblood conducted one of the sessions which participants found stimulating and filled with new ideas to take home for discussion.*

*Amused by something Donald J. Bevis just told him is banker Milton J. Drake who was a guest speaker at the Supervisors' Conference.*

