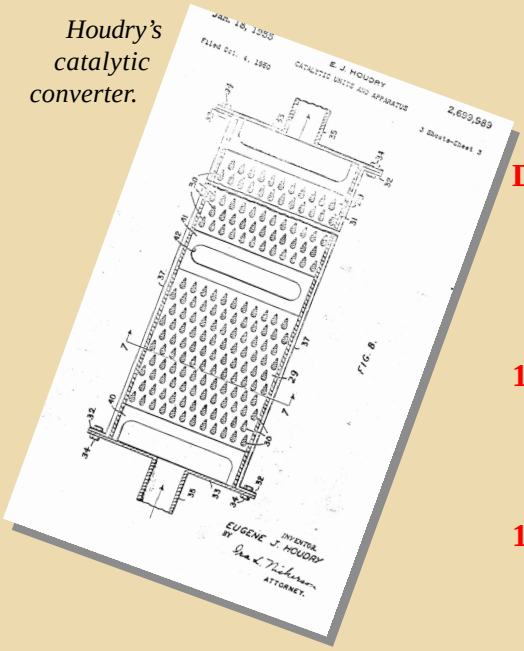
1st Decade: 1949 - 1958

Eugene Houdry - A second career in auto exhaust catalysis. 1

Houdry's catalytic converter.



A. Farkas, organizer of the first Catalyst Club Symposium in 1949 2

Late 1940s-Early 1950s: Robert M. Milton and Donald W. Breck, Union Carbide, develop commercial synthesis for zeolites - A, X, and Y types.

Late 1940s-Early 1950s: 1 Eugene Houdry develops monolithic platinum catalyst system for treating exhaust gases from internal combustion engines, founds — and begins commercial operations at Yardley, Pennsylvania. Houdry is later inducted into the Inventor's Hall of Fame.

June 11, 1949: 2 First meeting of organization that became the Catalysis Club of Philadelphia was held at the University of Pennsylvania. Papers were presented by R. C. Hansford (Mobil), A. G. Oblad (Houdry), A. V. Grosse (Temple U), T. I. Taylor (Columbia U.) and K. A. Krieger (U. Pennsylvania). A. Farkas, organizer of this symposium, was selected chairman of a committee to form a permanent organization.

December 1949: Prof. Paul Emmett presented a lecture at Temple University and afterwards the Catalysis Club of Philadelphia was officially formed, electing A. Farkas chairman and A. Oblad as Secretary-Treasurer. Almost one hundred signed up as members.

1949: 3 First commercial operation of UOP's Platforming Process for naphtha reforming, Old Dutch Refining, Muskegon, Michigan; patents for Pt-Cl-Al_2O_3 catalysts to Vladimir Haensel.

1949: P. W. Selwood published his first paper on nuclear induction and begins a series of classic publications on the application of magnetic techniques in catalysis. The results are summarized in his book [P. W. Selwood, "Adsorption and Collective Paramagnetism," Academic Press, 1962.]

March 2, 1950: The Bylaws of the Catalysis Club of Philadelphia, as written by Grace Kennedy (wife of Robert Kennedy, prominent catalysis scientist at Sun Oil), were adopted and still serve as the model for later formed clubs/societies.

1950: **MILESTONE MEETING**: The Discussions of the Faraday Society, **Heterogeneous Catalysis**, No. 8, 1950. Topics included:
O. Beeck, Relates % d-character of metal and catalytic activity for ethylene hydrogenation.
D. D. Eley, Calculates the heat of adsorption of hydrogen on metals.
G. M. Schwab, Alloy catalysts for dehydrogenation.
D. D. Dowden and P. W. Reynolds, Electronic effects in catalysis by metal alloys.