



### **CLOSING REMARKS**

By John Oxaal

The fifth International Ferroalloys Congress will shortly come to a close. For the past three days, we, the representatives of the world's ferroalloy community have shared technical information, socialized, renewed old acquaintances, and established new ones. Although our industry is a mature one -- dating back to the turn of the century -- the activities of this Congress show that our industry is robust, progressive, technically proficient, and quality oriented; and that it is ready to meet the challenges of the 1990's.

The record attendance has obviously been influenced by the healthy business climate in which we operate today. It has perhaps also been influenced by being held in a major world market area, and not to forget, in a unique city. But the registrants have not come here just to have a good time. There has been a strong desire to learn so that we can build a stronger, more customer-oriented industry serving a global market.

To be chairman of such a meeting has been a highlight of my business career. I am very indebted to The Ferroalloys Association and its president George Watson for asking me to serve as Chairman, and to Elkem Metals Company and my boss John Trunzo for giving me the time and the many resources necessary to carry out the assignment.

When I first started the work, I decided to consult with Mr. Jarbas Nascimento, the Chairman of INFACON'86 in Brazil, and was most enthusiastically received. I also met with Mr. Adelmo Melgaco, the General Secretary of ABRAFE. Their advice was invaluable to our efforts, and we cannot thank them enough.

One of the recommendations, which we adopted and faithfully adhered to, was to form a strong Organizing Committee to meet monthly to establish policy and review progress. I want to thank the members of this committee who gave so generously of their effort and time.

I realize that it is risky to mention names when so many people have devoted long hours to insuring the success of this meeting. But I will mention a few more anyway. First of all, as INFACON originated as a

technical congress, and has remained so, I would like to thank my colleague, Jim Downing, the Technical Chairman and his committee. INFACON'89's very professional and diverse technical program is the result of the hard work of this group of people. They not only had to evaluate and choose between dozens of abstracts but had to make sure the papers were received and printed on time so you could have them here. I want to thank every one of the authors who spent many long hours struggling over their papers. I hope you agree with me that the struggle was well worth it, and that we had an excellent technical program because of it. They dealt with fundamental studies, which increase our understanding of production and the utilization of alloys, improvements in existing processes and new smelting and addition technologies. I especially want to thank the invited user industry speakers for their willingness to assist us and for their very enlightening forward look at their developing needs. They gave us at least three important messages. We the ferroalloy producers have to:

1. Reduce impurity levels and increase uniformity.
2. Form a close relationship with our customers to better serve their developing needs.
3. Cooperate with each other as producers to help promote our customers' products and thus expand our own product lines and increase the overall usage of ferroalloys.

I would also like to say a special thanks to our panel members for taking time out of their busy schedules to be with us.

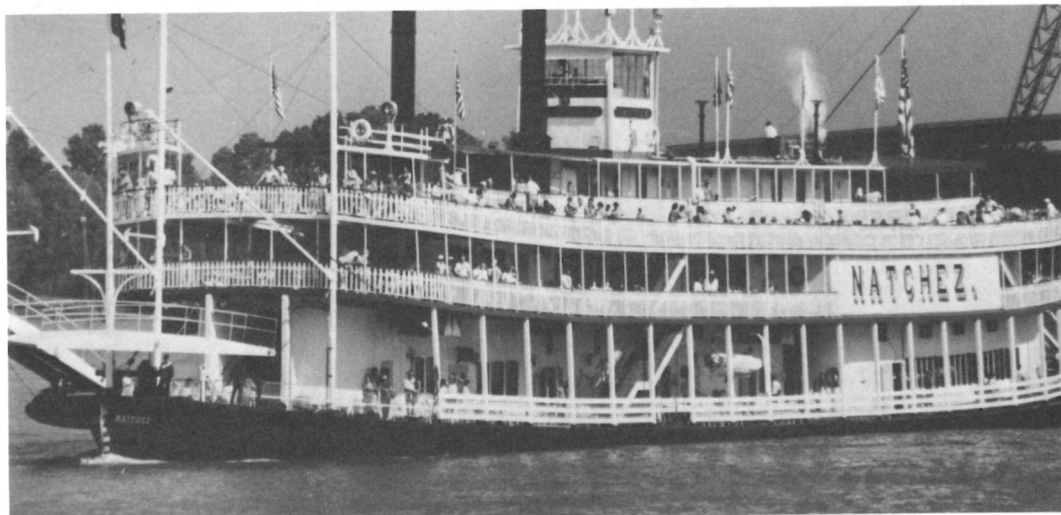
The fine local arrangements for INFACON - the hotel, the meals, the boat ride, and the tours - were put together by John Crane who spent many hours with the airlines, the bus and boat companies, the hotel, and the tour operators to make sure that everything ran smoothly. He also arranged for the advertising, the literature, and the commemorative plates and Ladies' pins. I also owe a debt to Don Freas, the past Congress tour Chairman, and the companies who are hosting the tours -- Elkem Metals, SKW Alloys, and Allegheny Ludlum. Those of you who are going on these tours will find a program that has been very carefully thought out. Finally, a very special word of thanks is due to my secretary Kristen Trunzo. She not only had to keep the records on the attendees, their spouses, the hotel arrangements, and your payments but she also had to answer the thousands of questions you and your secretaries asked.

No meeting is successful however without a dedicated group of registrants. So I want to thank each of you for coming. I hope you found the meeting meaningful in a professional sense and that you also had fun. For those of you who came from another country, it has been our pleasure to have you as a guest in the United States, and I hope you enjoy the rest of your trip. To all of you, bon voyage. I will be looking forward to seeing you again, if not sooner, in Cape Town.

## DINNER CRUISE RIVERBOAT NATCHEZ



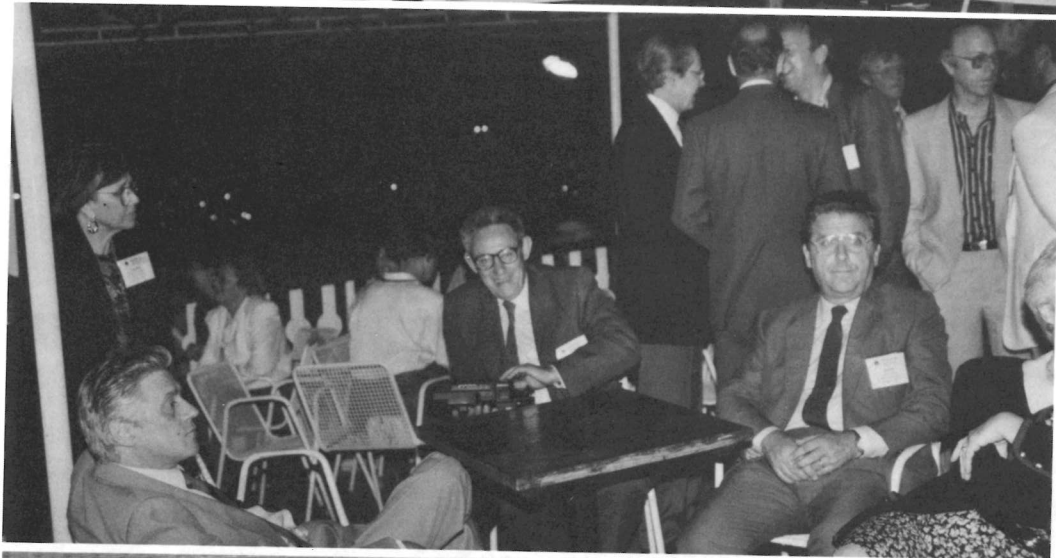
*Waiting for the bus to the "Natchez."*



*Infacon's major social event was aboard New Orleans' only steamboat, the "Natchez."*



*Registrants and their spouses enjoy a relaxing cruise of the Mississippi.*



*Cocktails, dinner and entertainment aboard the "Natchez."*