



## Harry's Corner

HARRY MARSHALL, Managing Editor

### WESTEC's Silver Anniversary

MODERN MACHINE SHOP congratulates WESTEC on its 25th Anniversary. Since its beginning, WESTEC (the Western Metal and Tool Exposition and Conference) has been an important industrial event which provides excellent technological support for the metalworking industry.

It provides an opportunity for participants to see and hear the latest advances in manufacturing and materials technology with a growing emphasis on quality control, improved productivity, computer-driven inspection systems and other technologies associated with computer-integrated manufacturing. Another trend is the move to new materials such as lighter metals, composites and plastics.

The show is beneficial to the engineer, materials scientist and manufacturing manager—not only for today's needs, but also for an overview of future directions in metals, machine tools and computer-aided processes. Editorial about this year's exhibit begins on page 208.

The first WESTEC was held 25 years ago on March 16-20, 1964 at the Pan Pacific Auditorium in Los

Angeles. More than 23,000 engineers and metalworking managers saw 228 exhibitors' displays. The first WESTEC was the combined effort of the American Society for Metals (now ASM International), which had been holding its Western Metals events in California since 1929, and the American Society of Tool and Manufacturing Engineers (now the Society of Manufacturing Engineers), which held its first West Coast exhibit in 1944. Today, WESTEC is sponsored by the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME), ASM International (ASM), and the American Machine Tool Distributors' Association (AMTDA).

Interest in the show was so great that it had to be moved to the Great Western Exhibit Center on the Santa Ana Freeway in 1965. That remained its home until 1972 when it was moved to the Los Angeles Convention Center where it is still held. The average show attendance is over 48,000 and the number of exhibitors is approaching the 600 mark. Officials are looking forward to greeting the 800,000th visitor during their 25th Anniversary event, which will be held March 21-24.