

# editor's note

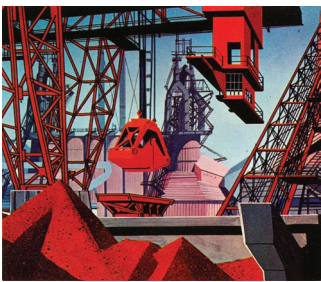


**I LOVE SATURDAY MORNINGS.** It's usually a lazy kind of day at my house, especially on the alternate weekends when my wife works.

The kids sometimes let me sleep in (until almost 8:00 a.m.!), we eat cereal or I cook up some pancakes or waffles, and then it's time for some snuggling and cartoons. (Joshua's current obsession is Ben Ten; it's not clever like Bugs Bunny, but at least it's not incomprehensible like Pokémon or addled like Scooby Doo.)

Customarily, my cartoon watching is limited to my own home. But last week was an exception, and I enjoyed a 22-minute respite right at work (thanks to a missive from Robert Beauchamp, my friend and current National Institute of Steel Detailing president). And since this issue includes our annual roundup of cool steel stuff, I thought I'd share a bit about this neat animation, which Robert's son Andreas found on the International Animated Film Association (ASIFA) web site.

Apparently, back in the late 1950s, U.S. Steel hired former Disney Staffer John Sutherland to produce an animated short that showed the history and impact of steel throughout civilization (the soundtrack was scored by the Pittsburgh Philharmonic Orchestra). The site quotes *Time* magazine as saying the show is "one of those rare industrial films with enough specific quality and general interest to play the commercial circuits." Apparently, it played as an added attraction in thousands of movie houses in 1959.



*Rhapsody of Steel*

Today, the movie looks incredibly camp—but it's a lot of fun to see. If you're interested, you can access the movie, called *Rhapsody of Steel*, on the ASIFA web site by visiting [www.aisc.org/rhapsody](http://www.aisc.org/rhapsody). I'm trying to think of a way to use the video at next year's steel conference but, unfortu-

nately, the quality of the digital file is too low and I haven't been successful yet in locating a better version.

Speaking of the Steel Conference, one of the biggest complaints we have from attendees is that there are just too many great sessions and not enough time to see them all. The second biggest complaint is that few presenters submit papers for the proceedings (unlike most conferences that are academically driven and are organized around a call for papers, the NASCC planning committee first selects topics and then finds experts; we're more concerned with the presentation than with the potential paper). But in 2008, we experimented with a potential solution to both problems: we taped most of the presentations and plan to offer them online. And since we're still trying to gauge the popularity of this solution, we're offering *Modern Steel Construction* readers a sneak peak. Today, no continuing education credit is available for these online presentations, though it's anticipated that by October some of the sessions will migrate to AISC's Continuing Education site and CEUs will be available.

So if you attended the conference and missed some sessions, or didn't attend the conference and want to know what all the excitement was about, visit [www.aisc.org/2008nascconline](http://www.aisc.org/2008nascconline). It's the next best thing to being at the conference! If nothing else, view Duane Miller's presentation on "Important Lessons They Didn't Teach Me at College (or at Least I Don't Think They Did)." It may be the best lecture I've ever heard.

  
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