A Sweet Marriage

It should come as no surprise SCRAP AGE heartily endorses the merger of the Institute of Scrap Iron & Steel and the National Association of Recycling Industries, a sweet marriage that might be officially consummated, our sources tell us, perhaps as early as the upcoming ISIS Board of Directors meeting in Orlando, Fla. April 8-9.

Maybe that date is a bit too early, considering the tremendous number of details, both big and small, that will have to be ironed out by the associations’ current staffs before we can really start existing under one roof.

But we were hardly off the plane in Las Vegas for the ISIS Convention before we started hearing members talking enthusiastically about the numerous benefits of a merger at this point in time.

Clearly, the support behind this move is overwhelming, and it’s become obvious that the powers at hand are intent on accomplishing the actual merger as quickly as possible, acting with a sense of urgency we wholeheartedly applaud.

Longtime readers of this publication know that we’ve been in favor of just one bigger, stronger, more streamlined trade association, in the recycling industry for years. The key advantage is obvious—more power at a lower cost.

Especially now, with the economy fluctuating like never before, cost-effective measures are imperative for the industry, and the money saved in dues and the expense of one less convention can definitely be well-spent in other areas.

As far as lobbying power, an all-important ingredient in the recycling recipe these days due to a hazardous waste factor that becomes more bureaucratically ominous each day, the industry can’t help but strengthen its voice significantly. With men like Sandy Shapiro, Howard Meyers, Herschel Cutler, Kurt Smallberg, Jim Fowler, John McBride and many more combining their considerable talents and boundless energy, we’ll be adding much-needed muscle on Capitol Hill, acting collectively and avoiding duplication.

Before we sign off this month, though, we would like to go on record as saying it has hardly been a bad situation with two associations instead of one. The staffs of both organizations should be commended as separate entities before they officially join forces, and now that it appears this merger is actually going to happen, we suddenly can’t help but feel a small touch of remorse, as a distinct and colorful era is sent packing by Father Time.

But the joy greatly overshadows the sorrow, as we look ahead with great interest and excitement at the new era that awaits us.