



79th Convention – New York

After a two-and-a-half year absence from New York—we last met there in October, 1953—the Society held its 79th Convention at the Statler Hotel, April 30–May 4. Since that last New York meeting the scope of Society activities has broadened and industry interest in SMPTE has grown accordingly.

In 1953, 632 registrants attended 11 technical sessions at which 53 papers were presented. Main emphasis at that 74th semiannual meeting was on wide-screen techniques, 3-D and stereophonic sound. At the 79th, attendance was 1,200, a record for New York conventions. There were 20 technical sessions, including 80 papers, and emphasis had swung to television subjects. Half the sessions dealt entirely with television, with particular attention paid to studio lighting and film commercials, and its influence could be seen in many of the other sessions.

More than 180 Society members took advantage of the advance registration procedure. Total registration included more than 700 members weekly, 128 members daily, 70 nonmembers weekly, 195 nonmembers daily, and 90 ladies. In addition to coming from 26 states in the U.S. and the District of Columbia, registrants also represented nine other countries, including Australia, Canada, England, France, Germany, Holland, Japan, Switzerland and Venezuela.

Responsible for compiling the extensive papers program was Ben Plakun, assisted by eight topic chairmen including Skip Athey, TV General and Educational; Herb Barnett, Underwater Television; Willy Borberg, Motion-Picture Projection, Production and Viewing; Hank Gurin, TV Studio Lighting; George Lewin, Sound Recording; Bill Morris, TV Film Commercials; Bill Rivers, Lab Practice; and John Waddell, High-Speed Photography. Arrangements for the motion-picture short subjects that began each session were made by Ed Stifle.

Taking advantage of the New York location, the committee supplemented the papers program with tours of NBC and Du Mont TV studio installations, and a special screening of *Oklahoma!* in Todd-AO.

General convention planning was efficiently and effectively handled by the Convention Vice-President, Byron Roudabush. The numerous advance preparations and daily duties which contribute to a smoothly run convention were capably completed by the Local Arrangements Chairman, George Gordon, and the local committee chairmen and members.

Preparations for the equipment exhibit were begun by Everett Miller, Exhibit Chairman, some six months before the convention, and his early planning produced excellent results. Thirty-one exhibitors displayed the latest developments in



Dr. Albert W. Trueman, Canada's Film Commissioner, is greeted by SMPTE President John Frayne at the 79th Convention Get-Together Luncheon.

motion-picture and TV equipment, and one exhibitor featured a collection of historical equipment.

Advance registration eliminated much confusion at the hotel; nevertheless Kern Moyse, Registration Chairman, and his assistants were kept constantly on the go. Marie Lucas put her Lake Placid experience to good use and efficiently set up and oversaw the registration desk. And Bill Reddick, taking on many more than the usual Auditor's duties, gave willingly and extensively of his time and abounding energy. Also assisting with registration were Emmett Salzberg, Hal Persons, Jack Bower, Ray Fellers, Walter Haas and Bill Koch.

A great deal of advance planning went into making the 79th a success. In addition to program and exhibit arrangements, many of the hotel, luncheon and banquet details had to be completed before the convention got underway. Overseeing these duties were Frank Marx, Luncheon Chairman, Clay Adams, Banquet Chairman, and Saul Jeffe, Hotel Arrangements Chairman.

Three hundred and eighty attended the get-together luncheon at which Dr. Frayne discussed "Motion Pictures and TV — Inseparable Media." Dr. Frayne cited the long history of cooperation in this Society between motion-picture and TV engineers, starting in 1923 with presentation of the first television paper read before the Society by C. Francis Jenkins, the Society's founder. Dr. Frayne also said:

"On the commercial side of the film industry, however, the development of television on a large scale was less gracefully

received and an informal cold war was engaged in by both sides. The new and formidable competition presented by television came at a time when pictures of wartime quality had about run their course, and these two influences, which were combined quite by accident, sharply depressed the nation's boxoffice receipts.

"We now find, however, that a number of differences have been reconciled and that there has come about a meeting of the commercial minds in both industries. It is not to be considered abnormal, however, that development of compatible business relationships has followed by ten to fifteen years the meeting of the technical minds."

The Society's president continued, reporting that at the 13 conventions since 1950, when the Society officially broadened the scope of its activities to include television, 50 of 173 technical sessions have been devoted exclusively to TV subjects. He also noted that two SMPTE engineering committees deal entirely with TV studies, including the development of TV standards and the production of TV test films; some 25% of all papers published in the *Journal* are concerned with television; and the David Sarnoff Gold Medal is awarded annually by the Society for technical contributions to television.

Canadian Film Commissioner Speaks

The guest speaker at the luncheon was Dr. Albert W. Trueman, Canadian Film Commissioner and Chairman of the National Film Board of Canada. Talking on

"The Documentary Film—Communicating Experience," Dr. Trueman noted that because of its flexibility and the variety of subjects it can treat, the documentary film is a potent instrument for extending and enriching individual experience. Such an educational tool, he said, can be extremely valuable in a democratic society. He emphasized his theme as follows:

"A democratic society must engage in the ceaseless task of enlarging and enriching the experience of its individual members. I developed this generalization to remind you that our people as a whole will go forward pretty well in proportion to what they know and what they have experienced; that in the long run, understanding and sympathy are based, partly at least, on knowledge and experience; that the documentary film, artistically and honestly produced, can help in the performance of this great democratic task because of its flexibility and the variety of subjects it can treat, and because, intelligently used, it is a teaching and information tool of great value."

Special Events

At a special luncheon on Wednesday, May 2, for TV studio lighting engineers at the Belmont-Plaza, Jo Mielziner, well-known stage designer and theater specialist, discussed the relationship between the artist and the technician in producing and lighting a successful stage or television production. Charles Shelvin was chairman of this luncheon committee.

The 400 who attended the traditional banquet on Thursday evening, May 3, danced to the music of Howard Lanin's orchestra and witnessed the presentation of a citation to Boyce Nemeec, who recently resigned as Executive Secretary, for his ten years of service to the Society. Details of this presentation appeared in the May *Journal*.

With 20 technical sessions, many of them concurrent, the projection and public address and recording services were very demanding. But in spite of the tight schedule, these tasks were successfully handled without a hitch. For this we can thank the Projection Chairman, Harry DeFuria; the Public Address and Recording Chairman, Ed Schmidt; and their able and untiring crews. Handling the projection duties from IATSE Local 306 were Steve D'Inzillo, Max Kessler, Gus Cohen, Manny Gessin and Milton Olshin. The recording crew included Larry Knees, Bill Woglom, George Bassett and Richard Gorski of Reeves Soundcraft; Edward P. Ancona and Alfred Ulmer of RCA; Bill Koch and Ray Wulf of Eastman Kodak; and J. Van Deuren and Richard Cook of du Pont.

Three sessions, the TV Studio Lighting on Tuesday and the two Sound Sessions on Thursday, were held at Fine Sound Studios where Bob Fine and Elmer Wilschke were the perfect hosts. Robert W. Eberenz, Chief Maintenance Engineer for Fine Studios, provided special services including recording, and Manny Gessin was the projectionist with the varied equipment required.

Dispensing hospitality in the form of TV tickets, sightseeing discount passes, maps and guides to New York City was Charlie Seager, ably assisted by Paul Christman

also of AnSCO. And at the Membership Desk Joe Dougherty distributed literature, answered queries and brought in 33 new members. His assistance came from Jack Du Vall, National Membership Chairman, Anita Iavarone, Joe Aiken, Jim Moses, Jack Bower, Charles LoBalbo, Ed Warnécke, Ronald Ringler, Martin Rich, Hal Jones and Herb Farmer.

And lending a willing hand wherever it was needed was Administrative Assistant Harold Jones.

Planning for the ladies' program, which included a fashion show and luncheon at the Waldorf Astoria, a tour of Lever Bros., lunch at Sardi's, and a visit to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, was done by Jack McCullough, Mrs. George Gordon and Mrs. Everett Miller. They were assisted by a committee made up of Mrs. Herbert Barnett, Mrs. John McCullough, Mrs. William Rivers, Mrs. Victor Salter and Mrs. Ethan Stifle.

In addition to the papers program, the luncheon and the banquet, 18 committee meetings were held. These included meetings of 11 engineering committees and of the Association of Cinema Laboratories, the Membership, Papers, Education and Nominating Committees, the 80th Convention Arrangements Committee, and Section Officers.—S.G.

Education, Industry News

The Standards Engineers Society will hold its Fifth Annual meeting October 3, 4 and 5 at the Hotel Willard, Washington, D.C. Theme of the meeting is "Standards—Guides for Tomorrow." Among the speakers at the convention are H. Thomas Hallowell, Jr., President of Standard Pressed Steel Co.; and Dr. A. T. McPherson, associate director for testing, National Bureau of Standards. J. G. Morrow, chairman of the ABC Committee of the Canadian Standards Association, and Frank P. Tisch, chief engineer of the Pheoll Mfg. Co., are scheduled to present Canadian and U.S. viewpoints on ABC unification.

A new feature of the convention will be presentation of awards for noteworthy achievements in the field of standardization. In addition, presentation of Fellowships will be made to outstanding personalities in the field of standards.

Milton S. Smith, Vice-President and Treasurer of Buensod-Stacey, Inc., has been elected President and Chief Executive officer of the company. He succeeds A. C. Buensod, President of the company since its organization, who has been elected to the new post of Chairman of the Board. R. O. McGary has been elected senior Vice President in charge of sales. All three were founders of the company which has specialized in industrial and commercial air-conditioning systems.

Jack C. Ellis, 1209 W. Jarvis Ave., Chicago, has been appointed Assistant Professor of Film at Northwestern University. He will supervise the University's expanded motion-picture program. A former research associate for the Film Council of America, Ellis joined the University's staff as a lec-

turer last winter. He is president of the American Federation of Film Societies and a member of the University Film Producers Association.

Victor M. Salter, a motion-picture technical representative for E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co. in New York City, has been appointed trade and industrial sales supervisor for du Pont's photographic products in the New York district. He succeeds William J. Cannon who has been transferred to the Boston district as sales supervisor of all photographic products. A member of this Society, Mr. Salter is now serving as Secretary-Treasurer of the Atlantic Coast Section of SMPTE. He is an associate member of the American Society of Cinematographers. William J. Sweet, a motion-picture finishing area supervisor at du Pont's, Parlin, N.J., Photo Products plant will take over the position left vacant by Mr. Salter's new appointment.

section reports



The Southwest Section held a reorganization meeting May 11 at Youngblood's Restaurant, Dallas, Tex. Thirty-seven members and guests were present. Charles Payne, General Manager, and Bob Tripp, Chief Engineer of Radio Station KIXL, gave a demonstration of Stereo-Binaural Sound. Paul Davis, who heads a development group in the Apparatus Division of Texas Instruments Corp., Dallas, spoke on "Miniaturization of Electronic Equipment by the Use of Transistors." Edwin J. Pattist, Quality Control Supervisor, Eastman Kodak Laboratories, Dallas, gave "A Projection Demonstration of Kodachrome Duplicating Film 5265, and Eastman Reversal Color Print Film 5269." Bruce Howard gave a brief summary of the history of SMPTE in the Southwest.—Roddy Keitz, c/o Keitz & Herndon, 4409 Belmont, Dallas, Tex.

The Northeastern Section met on May 15 in the Garden Lounge of Station WHAM-TV, Rochester, N.Y. Thirty-five members attended. Principal speakers were Rodger Ross of the Canadian Broadcasting Corp., Toronto, who spoke on "Black-and-White Kinescope Recording Operations at CBC," and Charles Evans, Research Lab., Eastman Kodak Co., Rochester, who spoke on "Color Kinescope Recording System Employing Embossed Film."

Mr. Ross described the CBC system which is based on feeding to the recording camera a signal which will produce a good image on film. Experience has indicated that this system of controlling the image at the source rather than by correcting in film processing and printing has produced most satisfactory TV pictures and kinescope recordings while maintaining consistent control over the whole process.

Mr. Evans told of the many interesting features of color kinescope recordings with