



81st Convention

700 Registrants — 14 Sessions — 103 Papers

One of the most dramatic events in the annals of SMPTE climaxed the 81st Convention when an audience of approximately 200 gave a standing ovation to George Lewin of the Army Pictorial Center following the presentation of his paper on "Transparent Magnetic Tracks." This is the first instance of such a spontaneous demonstration recorded in SMPTE history. Mr. Lewin's paper described his "accidental" discovery of a method of reproducing an optical soundtrack on film which already has a full-width magnetic track. This discovery presages new approaches in the use of languages, sound and film.

The 81st Convention was noteworthy not only for the record number of papers but also for the consistently high quality of the presentations. One consequence of the Convention was the clarification of the significance of certain observable trends, such as that toward a greater interest in closed-circuit television and its applications.

The audio-visual session was attended not only by engineers but by business men and educators. John Flory of Eastman Kodak Co. released some astonishing figures illustrating the economic significance of the increasing use of audio-visual film and equipment.

An unusual session was held at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. The entire session was presented on closed-circuit color television to demonstrate some of the applications in medical training. Many bizarre scenic shots fascinated the audience as the cameras were switched about the Center. The beauties of the epiglottis and the strange scenery of the esophagus were exceeded in interest only by the enormous teeth that appeared on the screen when the scene moved to the dental clinic.

The demonstration brought out how closed-circuit TV can be important in medical training and in the development of new techniques in medicine and surgery. From the beginning of the session, when the Session Chairman, Axel Jensen, appeared on the screen to introduce Dr. Paul Schafer, head of Walter Reed Television Division, the audience of 200 was intent on watching the large screen.

The two Laboratory Practice Sessions were comprised of a final total of 18 papers, making Wednesday a very substantial day indeed.

Another interesting session emphasized the importance of missile photography and its relationship to national defense and to new fields of research.

The Final Program was not greatly different from the Advance Program given in the March *Journal* — in effect, against five papers canceled or not read there were added two papers and a panel discussion.

The fine organization of the large papers program was accomplished by Joseph E. Aiken, assisted by Topic Chairmen Ellis W. D'Arcy, Ralph N. Harmon, John Flory, Garland C. Misener, Fred E. Aufhauser, Herbert Behrens, John H. Waddell, S. M. Lipton, John A. Maurer and Jack C. Greenfield. Substantial contributions to the success of this Convention were also made by Papers Committee Regional Chairmen, under Ben D. Plakun. They are a "standing" committee and are again listed in the May *Journal* as already at work for the 82d Convention.

Many Motion Pictures

An unusual aspect of the Convention was the presentation of a large number of motion pictures for entertainment and instruction, including the delightful "Short Subjects" arranged for by Ethan M. Stifle. Although the Railway Express strike broke up the exact schedule of films, the cartoons, sports and travel shorts were all enthusiastically received throughout the week.

One of the more unusual films was the *History of the Cinema* made by Halas and Batchelor of London and released through Louis de Rochemont Assoc. Ranging from the wildly amusing to the delicately witty, it offered genuine historical instruction from a "different" point of view. This film was

selected as the outstanding short for the Royal Film Performance in 1956.

Sound and Story, shown before the Friday afternoon Sound Session, was a thorough presentation by Radio Corp. of America, showing how high-fidelity disk records are made.

Shown throughout the papers program were these films which largely or completely served as a technical paper presentation:

Standardization — A Dynamic Key to Economy, Herbert C. Ruckmick, U.S. Naval Photographic Center, Anacostia, D.C. This 20-min, 35mm film explained the basic concepts and benefits of standards and the standardization process for local or international scope and for government or industry.

Effects of Communication Research on Educational Films, William H. Allen, System Development Div., The Rand Corp., Santa Monica, Calif. When Dr. Allen was obliged to cancel his personal appearance at the Convention, an 18-min film was produced — photography by John Tyo and artwork by James Fitzgerald, both of the Rand Corp. The film, made in half a day and at a cost of \$150 drew particular attention as a feature of the Session on Audio-Visual Uses of Motion Pictures and Television. It also enjoyed a further showing in Washington at the U.S. Information Agency

Fall Convention Papers Program

Following the extensive outline in the May *Journal*, one Topic Chairman has been added:

Television Studio Practices, *Richard S. O'Brien*, CBS Television, 485 Madison Ave., New York 22.

Up to the present time, no chairman has been appointed for the topic of Television Film Reproduction Technique, nor have any papers on this subject been received. Anyone who has such a paper to offer should get Author Forms from any of the Regional or Topic Chairmen listed in May, from the Editor at Society Headquarters, or write direct to the 82d Program Chairman:

Dr. Deane R. White
c/o Photo Products Dept.
E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co.
Parlin, N.J.

The above advice is for anyone who has a prospective paper for the Convention. No one has to wait for an invitation. All prospects are reviewed for suitability for a Convention Program; all prospects are reviewed for suitability for *Journal* publication. Acceptability for a Program is not a guarantee for *Journal* publication, and the reverse is also true.

A Canadian Regional Papers Committee has been formed under the Chairmanship of:

Rodger J. Ross, 784 Duchess Dr., Applewood Acres, Port Credit, Ont., Canada.

Newly appointed members are:

Gerald G. Graham, Box 6100, Montreal 3, Que.

Ivor B. M. Lomas, 275 Billings Ave., Ottawa 1, Ont.

M. J. Pappas, 1778 Beaudet St., St. Laurent, Que.

It is expected that additional appointments will soon be made for Vancouver, B.C., and Winnipeg, Man.

Deadlines

Before August 7, the Program Chairman, Dr. White, must have received from prospective Program authors: the Author Forms; three copies of a 50- to 75-word abstract, typed double-spaced; and two self-addressed business-size envelopes.

Before August 30, copies of the manuscript and brief biographical information, as described on the Author Forms, are due the Program Chairman, the Editor and Publicity Director.

Due to summertime work on the Program, early cooperation will be especially helpful and will ensure proper scheduling of your papers.