section reports

The Chicago Section met on October 6, 1958, at the Prudential Plaza Building with an attendance of 57. Prior to the meeting an informal dinner was held honoring the speaker guests, Frank Carlson of General Electric Co., Cleveland, Ohio, and Frank White, Eastman Kodak Processing Plant, Chicago.

Of special interest was our opening film *The Factual Fable of Quality Freeze* produced by Paragon Pictures, Evanston, Ill. Filmed entirely on new Ektacolor Commercial Film, this production represented one of the first motion pictures completed on the new stock in the Chicago area.

Frank Carlson presented his paper entitled "Design Improvements in High Wattage Tungsten Filament Lamps for Motion Picture and Television Studios." This paper described a new collector grid for use in high wattage filament lamps which effectively maintains the beam lumen output of such lamps at a high level prior to filament failure. In the course of his discussion Mr. Carlson elaborated on the causes and effects of lamp blacking. Slides were used to illustrate these points.

The second paper "An Improved Tear Detector for Film Processing Machines" was presented by Frank White. The author described a device for detecting film stock defects and for automatically stopping the film transport while the break is repaired. The unit is suitable for use in total darkness and has proven useful in preventing costly losses due to film breaks during processing.

A brisk question and answer period followed the presentation of these two papers during which time both speakers answered questions from the audience.—*William H. Smith*, Secretary-Treasurer, Lakeside Lab., Box 2408, Gary 5, Ind.

The Dallas-Ft. Worth Section's meeting on November 13 had a very good attendance of 60. Three speakers presented papers as follows: H. Pope McDonald, Jam Handy Corp., "Engineering A Motion Picture"; Fred Buchholz, Kling Photo Corp., "Arriflex Equipment;" and Dallas Andrews, RCA, "Four-Track Tape Magazine System."

Mr. McDonald showed the many production problems which had to be solved by the Jam Handy Corp. when they produced their film *The American Engineer*.

Fred Buchholz demonstrated to the group the Kling Photo Corp.'s latest Arriflex camera equipment.

Dallas Andrews demonstrated RCA's new four-track tape magazine system.—*E. J. Pattist*, Secretary-Treasurer, 3618 Marsh Lane Pl., Dallas, Texas.

The Hollywood Section meeting of November 18th had an attendance of 93, to hear J. L. Berryhill, Chief Engineer, KRON-TV speak on "An Automatic Program Switcher for Television Stations"; and W. F. Schreiber, Technicolor Corp., speak on "Synthetic Highs—An Experimental TV Bandwidth Reduction System."

The meeting was opened with a 16mm sound color film *Ripple Rock*, which is the story of the removal of the navigational hazard in Seymour Narrows, British Columbia, by the largest single commercial blast ever set, using nearly 3 million pounds of Nitramex.

Mr. Berryhill described equipment designed to perform the switching operations during a television station break. This equipment permits the pre-selection of any one of ten inputs of both the video and audio switcher. It permits the start and stop of twelve projectors, tape recorders, and other equipment, and the positioning of multiplexor mirror tables or projector dousers. This automation of station programming is employed at KRON-TV in San Francisco.

The above mentioned paper by Mr. Berryhill won the Scott-Helt Memorial Award which is given by the IRE for the best paper written and published in the *Transactions* of the Broadcast Transmission Group.

Mr. Schreiber read the paper which he co-authored with C. F. Knapp and N. D.

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Kay, also of Technicolor Corp. The paper described a complete experimental system which codes a standard video signal to match a narrow-band channel and subsequently decodes the receive signal for display on a standard television monitor. The system transmits the low-frequency signal in analog form. The location and quantized amplitude of the edges are transmitted by a digital code. Bandwidth reduction is achieved by exploiting both statistical correlations and psycho-physical phenomena. The equipment for the separation of low frequencies, detection and quantization of edges, and synthetic reconstruction of highs was described. A 16mm kinescope recording of the pictures produced through this system was shown.—*Robert G. Hufford*, Secretary-Treasurer, c/o Eastman Kodak Co., 6706 Santa Monica Blvd., Hollywood 38.

The New York Section meeting of November 19 was held at the Carnegie International Endowment Center, New York City. An enthusiastic and interested overflow audience of 282 persons heard three papers related to the use of video tape. K. B. Benson and P. E. Fish of CBS presented a paper on the video-tape facilities at CBS-TV, New York City. L. Weiland of NBC read a paper on the color video-tape operations at NBC. These papers were followed by T. J. Merson of the Ampex Corporation who presented a paper "An Interim Report on the Splicing of Video Tape."

The paper prepared by Messrs. Benson and Fish was presented by Mr. Benson. This paper described the establishment and operation of the CBS video-tape recording center in New York City and outlined some of the problems relating to the construction of the space, installation of electrical circuitry, and the operation of 14 Ampex tape recorders. One of the major functions of this equipment will be the broadcasting of programs at a delayed time interval during the use of daylight saving time throughout the U.S. A series of slides taken during the installation of the equipment were projected.

L. Weiland of NBC described the history and background of the installation in Los Angeles of color video-tape recording facilities for NBC. A modified Ampex prototype machine was originally used and later RCA Camden equipment was installed. Color-television programs are recorded and played back at a later hour for West Coast consumption. Mr. Weiland outlined the techniques and problems they have experienced in this operation since 1957.

Mr. Merson presented a paper describing a splicer supplied by the Ampex Corp. for the handling of video tape. The splicing of the magnetic recording is made possible by the application of a ferrous compound in a binder which makes the magnetic recording visible. The actual splice is made at the vertical blanking line in the sync track.—*Edward M. Warnecke*, Secretary-Treasurer, c/o Eastman Kodak Co., 342 Madison Ave., New York 17.

The San Francisco Section met at the Stanford Research Institute, Menlo Park, on July 8 to hear Jack Kabell, Research Engineer, Video Systems Laboratory of the Institute give a talk on "The Insidious

Transistor." As transistors and other semiconductor devices appear in the new designs of audio and video equipment with increasing frequency, there is a tendency to view these unfamiliar intruders with some misgivings. Twenty-eight members and guests were present to hear Mr. Kabell shed some light on the mysteries of solid state electronics. He first described the theory of positive and negative carriers in the molecular structure of semiconductors and how these carriers were put to work in the transistor. Typical applications were discussed along with some interesting facts on the frequency range, power range and reliability of the devices. A simple transistorized audio amplifier and a regulated power supply were demonstrated to indicate the possibilities for "home-grown" equipment.

Before the meeting, the usual custom of getting together for cocktails and dinner was followed, this time at Hal's Restaurant in South Palo Alto.—*Rodger L. Woodruff*, Secretary-Treasurer, KRON-TV, 929 Mission St., San Francisco.

The University of Southern California Student Chapter report for the period July 1, 1957, to June 30, 1958, showed an increase of 34 new members in the Chapter. An attempt to raise money for the Chapter's treasury resulted in the sale of 43 copies of "Elements of Color in Professional Motion Pictures" which was selected as official text for the camera classes at the University.

Several field trips and other allied activities were successfully undertaken during the year. These included: a field trip to Sound Services, Inc., at the company's invitation, to watch the dubbing of a feature length motion picture; a field trip to ZIV Television Programs, Inc., at the invitation of Herb Strock, to watch the filming of part of one of his features; a field trip to the location of the filming of "Wild Bill Hickok" and "Rin Tin Tin"; assistance by student members in the projection of slides and 16mm films at the 83d SMPTE Convention in Los Angeles; a field trip to the Mitchell Camera Corp. to watch the manufacture of the Mitchell Camera; year-round assistance to the Hollywood Section by projecting slides and 16mm films whenever required at section meetings.

Four meetings of the Chapter also took place during this period. On March 14, 1958, the USC-produced film "Underwater Recreation" was shown, Dustin Rawlinson, producer. On March 28, 1958, the USC-produced film "On Seeing Film," based on footage shot during the filming of "The Bridge on the River Kwai," was shown, Dustin Rawlinson, producer. Don Norwood was the guest speaker at the April 25, 1958, meeting.

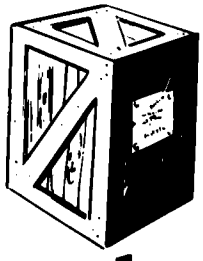
On May 29, 1958, the election of officers for the 1958 Fall Term were announced. Elected were Frank P. Clark, Chairman, and Karl F. Mylander, Secretary-Treasurer. Three "student-staff" meetings were requested for the fall of 1958, at which time the Student Chapter was to present semi-technical programs for all the students in the USC Cinema Departments. For the first of these meetings, it was decided to have an equipment exhibit on the sound stage for display of some of the local manufacturers' and distributors' equipment. Also planned were four member meetings and a full program of field trips. The Student Chapter also planned to continue to assist the Hollywood Section by projecting slides and films at its meetings.—*Dustin Rawlinson*, Chairman, University of Southern California Student Chapter, 1265 W. 25 St., Long Beach 10, Calif.

The Washington Section received some expert information on the workings of communications between the White House and the "outside" world at its June 11 meeting in the Treaty Room in the Executive Office Building of the White House. More than 100 members and guests gathered to hear the featured speaker, James C. Hagerty, Press Secretary to the President, talk on "The President and the Press." As a prelude to the meeting, several historic motion pictures were shown, including the first presidential press conference held by President Eisenhower and the conference in which he announced his intention to be a candidate for renomination for a second term. Mr. Hagerty's talk on the various problems confronting his office in connection with the dissemination of news included some serious and some humorous anecdotes which were well received by the audience. Following his talk, the Press Secretary remained to participate in the round table discussion which concluded the evening's program.

Capt. Robert Richardson, White House Signal Agency, discussed the problems peculiar to his agency concerned with the motion-picture and television dissemination of information from the President and how the Agency keeps up with all the latest forms of communication. The problems confronting a newsreel company in motion-

picture coverage of press conferences and other new events emanating from the White House were discussed by Charles Shutt, Washington Bureau Manager, Hearst Metrotone News and Telenews. The facts brought out in this talk served to call the attention of all present to the importance of motion pictures for news dissemination. Television broadcasting networks also have their problems in covering the highlights of the President's activities and particularly those of the press conference. Julian Goodman, Manager, News and Special Events, NBC Washington, spoke on these problems, especially those of an editorial nature facing the television news editors in avoiding charges of political bias or favoritism.

Jim Barker, Section Chairman, led the round table discussion which followed the speakers' formal presentations. The discussion was particularly animated and lasted over a half-hour. Mr. Barker and Al Moses were instrumental in arranging for this highly interesting meeting.—*Henry M. Fisher*, Secretary-Treasurer, 4003 Underwood St., Chevy Chase 15, Md.



new products

(and developments)

Further information about these items can be obtained direct from the addresses given. As in the case of technical papers, the Society is not responsible for manufacturers' statements, and publication of these items does not constitute endorsement of the products or services.

The stock of Altec Companies Inc. will be acquired by Ling Electronics Inc. under terms of an agreement announced by Board Chairman James J. Ling. Upon completion of the acquisition, Altec Companies Inc., together with its subsidiary, Altec Lansing Corp., will operate as subsidiaries of Ling Electronics Inc. Altec Service Co. will continue as a division of Altec Companies Inc. No change in the commercial operations, management, names or policies of the companies is contemplated.

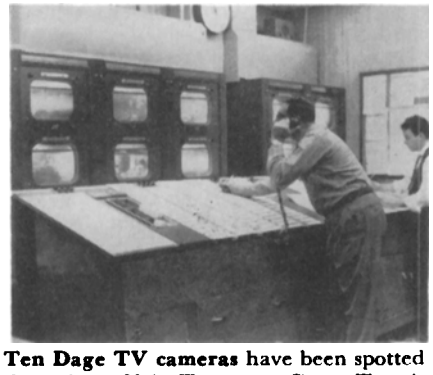
A new 5-ft high Eidophor projector, weighing 800 lb was demonstrated in Washington, D.C., in December before the American Assn. for the Advancement of Science. The demonstration was sponsored by Ciba Pharmaceutical Products Inc., of Summit, N.J., backer of Dr. Edgar

Gretener A.G., the Swiss company which developed the Eidophor.

The Washington, D.C., demonstration added a new chapter to the Eidophor story. On the human side it has had a dolorous history. It was invented in 1939 by Fritz Fischer of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology. Dr. Fischer died in 1947, before practical success of the invention was assured. Edgar Gretener, who continued the development, died last October.

Reaction to the Washington, D.C., demonstration was, for the most part, extremely favorable. An earlier demonstration in New York (New Products, *Jour.* p. 80, July 1952) was under the auspices of 20th Century-Fox. At that time a 30-minute program was originated and transmitted from a studio to a theater several blocks distant. Since that early demonstration, 20th Century-Fox and General Electric have jointly continued developmental activities. The Eidophor has been described in articles in the *Journal*, including "The Eidophor Method for Theater Television," E. Labin, pp. 393–406, Apr. 1950, and "The Eidophor System of Theater Television," Earl I. Sponable, pp. 337–343, Apr. 1953.

In the Washington, D.C., demonstration, pictures of a heart operation were shown in color on a screen 16 ft by 12 ft.



Ten Dage TV cameras have been spotted throughout Yale Transport Corp. Terminal, 40 St. and 12th Ave., New York, and connected by coaxial cable to monitors in the operations office to keep a 24-hour watch on loading and unloading activities. The TV system opens up new working space by eliminating the control tower which formerly occupied 500 sq ft of space and, at the same time, it permits closer management control. The dis-

VideoScene, an electronic camera system which makes it possible to blend live action with miniature settings, still photographs or motion pictures, has been announced by the CBS Television Network Production Development Dept., 485 Madison Ave., New York 22. Two cameras are linked with a servosystem which synchronizes the cameras' movements so that background and actors are matched. One camera (with two tubes) covers the blank set on which the actors perform, while the other camera photographs the miniature background. The two pictures are blended into a composite on the TV screen.

A special reflective material, developed by Minnesota Mining and Mfg. Co., is used on the "blank" set. Through the use of a dichroic mirror the reflected keying light is transmitted to the camera where it becomes an optical signal. The effect of the reflected light is to "black out" the matting background against which the actors perform and permit the actors to be blended into the background setting. The process, at present, is applicable only to black-and-white, but it reportedly can be easily adapted to color.