



Thomas T. Hill

Thomas T. Hill has been appointed Director, Information Service, Graphic Arts Research Center, Rochester Institute of Technology. He is Editor of *Abstracts of Photographic Science and Engineering Literature* which is now (since the January 1970 issue) published at the Graphic Arts Research Center (*Journal*, p. 276, Mar. 1970). Mr. Hill, who has been a member of the Society since 1944, has had more than 30 years experience in the photographic industry and has specialized in the manufacture and formulation of processing chemicals and photographic gelatins and their use in emulsions. He is the author of "Nonsilver Photographic Processes" which appeared in the July 1952 issue of the *Journal*. His journalistic experience includes a column called "Answers to Questions" which he conducted for *Popular Photography*. He is presently a consultant to the Chemistry Division of the Air Force Office of Scientific Research and, under a grant from the division, he has operated a project at RIT for several years. He has also been an Associate Professor in RIT's School of Photographic Arts and Sciences. His extensive experience also includes information handling techniques, including planning, abstracting and communicating; information storage and retrieval and information systems.

The Intersociety Council for Theatrical Motion Pictures, comprised of delegates from SMPTE, TEDA, NATO, TESMA and the Motion Picture and Television Research Center (MPAA), has been established. Purpose of the Council is "to facilitate the exchange of problems relating to the improvement of motion-picture presentation in the theater." The Council will meet every three months to discuss programs of mutual interest and benefit to the participating organizations and the entire theatrical film industry. The origins of the Intersociety Council are based upon discussions held in New Orleans between Deane R. White, SMPTE President, and John L. Burlinson, Jr., Executive Director of TESMA, during the 1969 TEDA/

Obituary



James L. Pettus

James L. Pettus passed away in Oxnard, CA, on January 17, 1970. At the time of his death he was Manager of RCA Film Recording Engineering located in Burbank, CA.

Mr. Pettus joined RCA in 1937 after attending William Jewell College at Liberty, MO, where he majored in Mechanical Engineering. He was originally assigned to the Quality Department at the RCA Indianapolis Plant where he worked on sound recording and reproducing equipment for both film and disc.

In 1940 he was transferred to the Engineering Department and assigned to the Instrument Design Group. He concentrated his efforts on the design of film-recording galvanometers and noise-reduction shutters as well as disc cutters and reproducer heads. Just prior to the beginning of World War II, he was given the assignment of designing lens-coating equipment and of establishing a commercial setup at the Indianapolis Plant. During the war he devoted much of his time to refining the art of evaporating films as well as doing liaison work with various other companies engaged in the manufacture of military optical devices.

In 1946 he was moved to the RCA Hollywood group where he concentrated on the mechanical design of sound film recording and reproducing equipment.

In 1955 he was promoted to Manager of Film Recording Engineering and was given the responsibility for Manufacturing as well as Engineering for the RCA Burbank facility in 1962. During the past three years his major effort has been directed toward the development of improved magnetic heads used in audio and instrumentation recording.

Mr. Pettus was a member of the SMPTE since 1940, served as Chairman of SMPTE Sound Committee, and was elected a Fellow in the Society in 1955. He was also a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and of the Academy's Technical Awards Committee.

Mr. Pettus was a registered mechanical engineer in the State of California and the holder of some 21 U.S. Patents. Many of the designs found in optical recorders in use today by motion-picture studios incorporate some of his original efforts in this field. Particularly outstanding among his achievements was his participation and guidance in the formulation of concise and workable standards for soundtracks used by the film industry throughout the world. His mechanical designs for magnetic recording equipment are reflected in systems manufactured currently and serve as further tribute to his continuing contributions to the motion-picture industry.—*J. V. Leahy*

TESMA Conference (*Journal*, pp. 169-170, Mar. 1969).

An organizational meeting was held in March following the TEDA/TESMA Conference and during the year several Intersociety Council meetings were held in New York at SMPTE headquarters. Among the aims of the Council is that of establishing a much greater work rapport between theater exhibitors and the film industry's technicians and research centers.

John J. Burlinson, Jr., is serving as Secretary pro tem of the Council. Inquiries should be directed to him at 1600 Broadway, New York, NY 10018.

The American Film Institute has an-

nounced a four-week summer seminar for teachers of film to be held July 6-31 at the AFI Center for Advanced Film Studies, Greystone, Beverly Hills, CA. Central aims of the seminar are to provide teachers of film with an opportunity to deepen their knowledge of film and television and to explore related areas of film education. A primary emphasis in the course will be on film as a critical discipline. Study will be structured around the theme *Images of America* and will explore directors whose work reveals a preoccupation with national consciousness, such as John Ford, Elia Kazan, Sam Fuller, Arthur Penn. Approaches to film teaching will be a second core area of study. The objectives and methods of film education will be con-