

Historical Note

At Lake Placid in 1928

Photograph supplied by NATHAN GOLDEN



Left to Right: (1), (2) and (3) unidentified; (4) Frank H. Richardson; (5) Chauncey L. Greene; (6) and (7) partially visible; (8) and (9) unidentified; (10) William Kunzman; (11) C. Francis Jenkins; (12) William Hennessey (13) identified as President of International Projector Corp.; (14) Nathan Golden; and (15) Percival McGuire.

Editorial Note: The photograph shown here of some of the members who attended the SMPE Conference at Lake Placid in 1928 was lent to us by Nathan Golden in the fall of 1968. Shortly thereafter an unfortunate chain of circumstances began when at the photographic studio where the photograph had been sent for reproduction one of the owners suffered a stroke; then there was a strike at the print shop, followed by a number of other vicissitudes, with the result that publication of the photograph has been delayed. The original photograph disappeared at the beginning of this series of misfortunes, but the one fortunate circumstance was that the negative was saved. We are indeed indebted to Nathan Golden for the loan of his photograph and for his patience.

By 1928, the semiannual meetings of the SMPE had become an important proving ground for the ideas and achievements of the best minds in the industry.

Many of the papers presented at the Conference at Lake Placid, September 24–28, 1928, were concerned (some a bit nervously) with sound. Other concerns of the participants at this occasion included the transmission of movies by radio.

C. Francis Jenkins reported that “The Jenkins Laboratories, Station W3XK, is broadcasting movies by radio every Monday, Wednesday and Friday evening on 46.72 m (6420 kc); 48 lines per picture and 15 pictures per second.” The movies were in the form of silhouettes since the “narrow width of the broadcast band legally permissible to use does not compass the frequency involved in the transmission of theater film” (*SMPE Transactions*, XII, September 1928).

Other papers presented at the 1928 Lake Placid Conference covered a wide range of interests, including medical photography (C. Tuttle and C. A. Morrison), a projector for stereo, color and standard films (G. Lane) and undersea motion-picture photography (F. D. Crosby).

In spite of a heavy schedule of technical sessions, the members who assembled for the photograph (taken September 24, 1928) seem in a jovial mood.

Not all of the people in the photograph have been identified. Advice from readers who can add to the identifications will be welcomed.