

# Biographical Note



Waldemar J. Poch (r) with Andrew Holmes-Siedle, recipients of the Industrial Research Award for 1971.

Waldemar J. Poch has long been importantly active in the Society and especially on the Board of Editors. His career before retiring some time ago is briefly sketched below. He is shown above with Andrew Holmes-Siedle when they received the Industrial Research Award for The Mosimeter Radiation Dose Measuring Device, a simplified radiation detector which in part resulted from his research work.

Mr. Poch joined RCA Corp. in 1930 when his principal activity was the development of measuring apparatus for testing receiver components. He was graduated from the University of Michigan in 1928 with the degree of Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering. In 1934 (while he

was with RCA Corp.'s Research Group on Television Receivers and Studio Equipment) he received the degree of Master of Science in Electrical Engineering from the University of Pennsylvania. While he was with the Research Group, one of his assignments included a 10-month tour of duty in the USSR during the latter part of 1937 and early 1938. At that time he supervised the installation of television studio and transmitting equipment. In 1959 he returned to Moscow for participation in the American Exhibition. In 1972 he returned to the USSR as a delegate to the Popov Society Congress from the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers. He describes his impressions of the progress that has been made in television and related

fields in the USSR since his first visits in "Notes From a Visit to the USSR in 1972" in this issue of the *Journal*.

His impressions of his second visit to Russia are described in "Moscow Impressions" in the May 1960 issue of the *Journal*. In 1959 his visit to the Moscow Television Center was of special interest because of the "memories of the difficulties and successes involved in the first installation." He observed "with mixed feelings" that only traces of the equipment installed in 1937 were in service in 1959. He described the interval between his first and second visits as representing "a major advance all along the economic and scientific front."

Following his first tour in the USSR he returned to the United States in 1938 where he was made responsible for the development and design of various types of TV pickup equipment, particularly lightweight camera and transmitting equipment for military applications. Beginning in 1950 he served as Engineering Section Manager in charge of the development and design of broadcast television studio equipment. In 1955 he became a member of the corporate staff responsible for the development of new products. In 1960 he transferred to the Astro-Electronics Div. of RCA Corp. in the Space Observations Systems activity where he had supervisory responsibilities in the development of experimental camera equipment.

During his years with RCA Corp. he was granted more than 30 U.S. Patents. He is the author of a number of technical papers, among them, "The Development of a Feasibility Model of an Electron Beam Recorder" in the September 1964 issue of the *Journal* and "An Experimental Photo-Tape Frame-Camera System" in the January 1965 issue of the *Journal*.

Mr. Poch has been a member of the Society since 1951. His services to the Society include membership on the Board of Editors for many years. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers. He resides at 19 Cranbury Neck Rd., Cranbury, NJ 08512.

## Metric America Bill

### Sent to Congress

**P**ROPOSED legislation to help the United States switch over to use of the metric system of measurement from the common inch-quart-pound system within the next 10 years was sent to Congress on February 29 by Secretary of Commerce Peter G. Peterson. The legislation was introduced on March 6 by Congressman George P. Miller and 24 cosponsors as House Joint Resolution 1092, and on March 28 by Senator Norris Cotton as Senate Joint Resolution 219.

The legislation would create a National Metric Conversion Board to plan and coordinate a *voluntary* conversion process in which metric units like the metre, litre, and kilogram would become the most common units of measure in America as they

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### A Reprint

are or soon will be in all other industrialized nations of the world. The Board, to be made up of 25 representatives of industry, trade associations, citizens group, and government appointed by the President and the Congress, would assist industry and the public in adjusting to the use of metric measurement units.

The legislation is an outgrowth of recommendations by former Secretary of Commerce Maurice H. Stans, based on a 3-year study by NBS. The Report of the Metric Study, "A Metric America: A Decision Whose Time Has Come," was sent to Congress in July 1971.\*

Secretary Peterson, in transmitting the proposed legislation to the Congress, underscored the need to act now:

"The time has come for a national decision to prepare to join the rest of the industrial world in adopting metric language

\* Available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Govt. Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402, as NBS Spec. Pub. 345, 192 pp., \$2.25. Use S.D. catalog No. C13.10:345.