

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE HOLLYWOOD CONVENTION

The Convention at Hollywood, recently concluded, would in ordinary peacetimes have been regarded as a very successful convention from all points of view; its success was therefore all the more outstanding in view of the existing war effort and the fact that so many of the technical members of the industry are contributing to this effort.

Both the quality and quantity of presentations on the program were definitely the equal of previous programs, and the engineering branch of the industry may well be congratulated upon the way in which its technical activities are being continued during such a time of stress.

Equally gratifying also was the large attendance at the meetings. Meetings were held each evening during the Convention in order to permit attendance by those who would otherwise be engaged at the studios and laboratories during the daytime. The morning and afternoon sessions, however, were also very well attended. Three of the sessions were held at the General Service Studios, and one at the Carthay Circle Theater. The remaining sessions were held in the Blossom Room of the Hollywood-Roosevelt Hotel.

An innovation of this Convention was omission of the usual Monday morning session, the formal opening of the Convention being the Get-Together Luncheon at Monday noon. This change allowed time for Convention registration, arrival of delegates, and other matters that usually interfere with the conduct of the Monday morning session.

The informal Get-Together Luncheon was attended by approximately 200 persons. Mr. Cecil B. deMille, President of Cecil B. deMille Productions, Inc., producing for Paramount Pictures, Inc., was the principal speaker. Mr. deMille's address was followed by several vocal selections by Miss Martha Mears, courtesy of Paramount Pictures, Inc. Seated at the speakers' table were President Huse, Dr. John G. Frayne, Chairman of the Pacific Coast Section; Mr. E. A. Williford, Past-President of the Society; Mr. deMille; Miss Martha Mears; Mr. Loren L. Ryder, member of the Board; Mr. Alvin Wykoff, pioneer cameraman who collaborated with Mr. deMille in the early days of the industry; and Mr. Arthur C. Downes, Editorial Vice-President of the Society.

The Monday afternoon session, held at the Hotel, included several presentations describing the applications and uses of motion pictures in the U. S. Navy and U. S. Army Forces. Very interesting papers were read on audio-visual aids to Naval training by Wm. Exton, Jr., U. S. N. R., and on the motion picture camera in the Army Air Forces, by Guy J. Newhard of Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio. Mr. Gregory L. Irsky of the Amtorg Trading Corporation described in considerable detail the technical progress that has been made during recent years in the motion picture industry of the Soviet Union. The session concluded with two papers dealing with developer analysis and continuous replenishment and control of motion picture developing solutions, the first by John G. Stott of the Eastman Kodak Company, and the latter by H. L. Baumback of the Paramount Studio.

The Monday evening session introduced a new feature into conventions of the Society. Prior to the Convention a special committee of West Coast technicians, following a suggestion previously made by President Huse, made arrangements for a series of nine presentations describing the various vicissitudes through which motion picture film passes from the moment it arrives at the studio as raw film to its final projection as the finished positive in the motion picture theater. The symposium described, step by step, the many technical processes involved, in a series of coördinated papers by authors especially chosen for their qualifications in each field. The symposium covered the Monday evening, Tuesday afternoon, Thursday afternoon, and Thursday evening sessions.

In the Monday afternoon session were scheduled the first three of these papers. Part I dealt with "Cinematography, 1942." The black-and-white phase was presented by John W. Boyle of Universal Pictures, with contributions from Charles G. Clarke and D. B. Clark of 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., and John Arnold of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios. The second section, dealing with technicolor, was presented by Winton Hoch of the Technicolor.

Part II of the symposium dealt with "Illumination," and was presented by R. G. Linderman of Mole-Richardson Co., C. W. Handley of National Carbon Co., and Alston Rodgers of the General Electric Co. The evening concluded with Part III of the symposium, on the subject of "Laboratory Practices," by J. R. Wilkinson.

The morning of Tuesday, May 5th, was devoted to a visit to the Warner Bros. Laboratories at Burbank under the direction of Fred Gage, Superintendent. In the afternoon the Convention moved to the General Service Studios at which were presented three additional parts of the symposium on the technic of motion picture production. The fourth part, "Production Sound," was presented by H. G. Tasker of Paramount Pictures, Inc.; the fifth, "Scoring and Prescoring," was discussed by Bernard Brown of Universal Pictures; and the sixth, "Re-recording," by L. T. Goldsmith of Warner Brothers. The afternoon was concluded with an interesting presentation on "Motion Pictures: Technology in Art," by L. S. Becker of Warner Brothers.

The Tuesday evening session was held at the M-G-M Studio at Culver City, at which Mr. J. K. Hilliard presented an analysis of the complete sound-recording system in use by the M-G-M Studios, and Theodore Hoffman of M-G-M presented a system of loop synchronization now in use by M-G-M as a means of simply and economically making sound re-takes of unsatisfactory portions of sound records.

The Wednesday morning session, held at the Hotel, was devoted to a number of papers of a general nature, including the report of the Historical Committee by J. E. Abbott, Chairman; "The Historical Development of the Sound-Film from 1927-42," also by Mr. Abbott; and an account of the growth of the photographic art in America by L. E. Varden. Other interesting presentations of the morning included the report of the Theater Engineering Committee, a paper on the production of 16-mm industrial motion pictures by Lloyd Thompson of The Calvin Co., and a discussion of light-scattering by the graininess of photographic emulsions, by Alexander Goetz and F. W. Brown of the California Inst. of Technology.

Wednesday afternoon the members were guests of the Paramount Studio at a demonstration of the equipment and facilities of Television Productions, Inc., under the guidance of E. C. Buddy and K. Landsberg.

The Fifty-First Semi-Annual Banquet and Dance was held in the Blossom Room of the Hollywood-Roosevelt Hotel on the evening of May 6th. The banquet was attended by approximately 250 persons, and seated at the speakers' table were the following officers and guests of the Society: Mr. Emery Huse, President of the Society, and Mrs. Huse; Miss Helen Gahagan, representing the United Service Organization; Mr. Walter Wanger, President of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences; Lt. Col. and Mrs. Chas. S. Stodter; Lt. Lewis Gough, U. S. N., and Mrs. Gough; Mr. Fred Jackman, President of the American Society of Cinematographers, and Mrs. Jackman; Dr. and Mrs. John G. Frayne; Mr. E. A. Williford; Mr. Arthur C. Downes; and Mr. George Friedl, Jr.

Brief addresses were made by Miss Gahagan, Messrs. Wanger and Jackman, Col. Stodter, and Lt. Gough.

On Thursday morning, at a meeting held at the General Service Studios, two additional parts of the symposium on the technic of motion picture production were presented. Part VII was devoted to "Cutting and Editing," by Frederick Richards of Warner Brothers and Fredrick Smith of M-G-M Studios, by arrangement with the Society of Motion Picture Film Editors. Mr. Carroll Dunning of the Dunning Process Co. presented the eighth part of the symposium, "Photographic Embellishment," including contributions from Farciot Edouart of Paramount, Fred Sersen of 20th Century-Fox Films, and John Fulton of Universal.

The Thursday evening session opened with the ninth part of the symposium, "Projection." This part was presented in two sections, one by George Urey of RCA Manufacturing Co., and the other by Herbert Starke of the RKO Service Corporation. Additional papers of the evening were devoted to various phases of sound recording and an interesting paper on the question of 16-mm emulsion position by Wm. H. Offenhauser, Jr., of Precision Film Laboratories.

On Friday morning the session held at the Carthay Circle Theater opened with two papers by W. Jones and W. E. Garity, and E. H. Plumb, all of Walt Disney Productions, on "Theater Experiences with Fantasound" and "The Future of Fantasound." Additional papers dealt with the photographing of 16-mm Kodachrome short subjects for major studio release, by L. W. O'Connell of Warner Bros., and developments in time-saving process projection equipment, by R. W. Henderson of Paramount. The afternoon session was held at the Hotel, and included three papers on television technic and equipment by H. R. Lubcke of the Don Lee Broadcasting System, E. D. Cook of the General Electric Co., and G. L. Beers of the RCA Manufacturing Co.

The final session of the Convention, Friday evening, was devoted to papers on theater equipment, record reproduction systems, and a study of 16-mm projection flicker. These papers were presented by A. Goodman and E. Stanko, G. L. Beers and C. M. Sinnett, L. T. Sachtleben, and E. E. Masterson and E. W. Kellogg, all of RCA Manufacturing Co.

The Society wishes to acknowledge its gratitude to the large number of persons and companies who collaborated in providing the various facilities for the Convention. Acknowledgment is due also to Warner Brothers Hollywood Theater, Pantages' Hollywood Theater, Paramount Hollywood Theater, Grauman's Chinese and Egyptian Theaters, for the passes issued to Convention delegates during the dates of the Convention.