

TECHNICAL NEWS

The items appearing in this section were submitted August 22, 1944, by members of the Technical News Committee, who welcome and will consider items of current technical interest from any member of the Society.

Additional information concerning these items, or the equipment and processes discussed, may be obtained by communicating with the General Office of the Society, Hotel Pennsylvania, New York 1, N. Y.

COLOR

Extensive tests are being carried on in Hollywood with Ansco color process, even to the point of building special printers and other equipment.

SOUND

Warner Bros. Pictures, Inc.—When sound tracks are recorded for playback or cuing only, no prints are made and the negative is played back through the film playback equipment.

Sound Services, Inc.—A vocal booth, which can be folded against the stage wall when not in use, is a feature of Sound Services scoring stage. A number of large panels capable of being arranged to form various enclosures are suspended from the roof trusses on rails so they may be easily moved. The possibility of simulating a number of acoustic conditions has proved of value in post-synchronizing work.

Eastman Kodak Co.—A new Eastman 35-mm variable-area sound recording negative film, code 1372, was placed on sale in Hollywood and New York during the month of August, 1944. This is a fine-grain, high resolving power emulsion of characteristics normally desired by variable-area sound recordists.

TELEVISION

A large number of television station applications have been received by the Federal Communications Commission from Southern California. Eight commercial applications are on file, with the possibility of a few more. The newest entry into the field is Warner Brothers. The Broadcasting Corporation of America of Riverside

is also a newcomer. The National Broadcasting Company, as well as Warner Brothers, and Broadcasting Corporation of America all seek Channel 3. The Howard Hughes organization is in line for Channel 2. The Earl Anthony application is for Channel 6. Television Productions, the Paramount affiliate, is in operation on Channel 4, while the Don Lee Broadcasting System is operating on Channel 1. The Consolidated Broadcasting Corporation, Ltd., has applied in Los Angeles for Channel 7.

CAMERA EQUIPMENT

Republic Pictures Corp.—A combination line and buckle switch for camera motors, which performs both functions, has been developed at Republic Studios. The new switch has a positive action when the trigger is released by a rod actuated when abnormal conditions of the film loop occur in the camera.

Warner Bros. Pictures, Inc.—Warner Brothers have purchased the Camera Division of the California Telephone and Electric Company. This subsidiary is known as the American Camera Company and is now manufacturing the Cunningham Combat Cameras for the Armed Forces. Col. Nathan Levinson is president of the new company.

CINEMATOGRAPHY

Owing to the present technique in most studios of shooting many scenes, especially close-ups, with extremely wide-angle lenses and with actors in close proximity to the camera, some of the latest cameras are not sufficiently quiet to permit recording low-level dialogue. When these same cameras are used for average shots with 40-, 50- or 75-mm lenses, they are satisfactory. Now with the use of 24-, 25- and 28-mm lenses for close angles, the microphone must be used too close to the camera for good sound. One major studio is considering the possibility of "blimping" their latest model cameras.

In the production of *Wilson* certain old newsreel shots were used showing President Wilson riding through the streets of Paris and London. Since no close-ups were available, it was necessary for the producers to "shoot" black-and-white "close-ups" for inter-cutting in this old footage. This was done very successfully by flat-lighting the subject and using an old model Pathe camera for the photography.