

## SOCIETY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### FADER SETTING STANDARD WITHDRAWN

All American Standards on motion pictures developed by the motion picture industry are published officially for the industry by the American Standards Association. The procedure used in the past was somewhat involved, but has been simplified in the light of experience gained in standardization during the war and the preceding ten years. At present, American Standards may be proposed by any competent individual, organization or industrial group and it is expected that they will substantiate their claims that such new proposals are desirable. Safeguards are necessary, of course, to ensure that the proposed standardization will not prejudice technical development in motion pictures, and the ASA procedure does this as well as make certain that anyone stating his opinions for or against any new proposal has an equal opportunity to be heard.

The withdrawal of existing standards is as carefully supervised as the preparation of new ones, and the same procedures are observed. An example is the **American Recommended Practice for Motion Picture Film, Theater Sound Fader Setting Instructions, Z22.32-1941**, which was officially approved for withdrawal by the ASA on March 7, 1947. Therefore, this standard is no longer valid and will not be considered as having industry sanction in the future.

Sometime prior to 1941, the industry adopted the practice outlined in this standard, because at that time it was felt necessary to provide more than one type of recording for certain feature releases. Fader setting instructions to projectionists were inserted as a 15-frame strip of information located in the first 20 frames of the synchronizing leader of every release print. Prints which had normal equalization and recording characteristics, were marked "Regular" prints, while all other prints were either "Hi-Range" or "Lo-Range". This practice has not been followed recently, and since no studio is now using it as outlined, the Research Council of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences recommended to the ASA Sectional Committee on Motion Pictures, Z22, that it be withdrawn because continued existence of the published standard implied that the practice was still being observed.

The Sectional Committee voted in favor of the withdrawal and on Dec. 31, 1946, the secretary of that committee asked the SMPE Board of Governors, which acts as its sponsor, to transmit formally this recommendation for final action by the ASA Standards Council. The Board did so and official ASA approval of the withdrawal was announced on March 7, 1947.

At the present time, American Standards on Motion Pictures number from Z22.1 through Z22.54. Two of them, Z22.1 and Z22.32, have been officially withdrawn leaving 52 valid standards on the current list. Of these, twenty-six were recently revised and published in the SMPE JOURNAL for April and September 1946. They are available in complete sets, bound in a heavy loose-leaf

binder, from the general office of the Society in the Hotel Pennsylvania, New York.

The remaining twenty-six standards are now in various stages of revision, and as they are completed and approved will also be announced in the JOURNAL. Individual notices of all new standards and revisions, as well as withdrawals, will be sent to all who have purchased binders, so that they may keep their records current.

A number of proposals for new motion picture standards have been submitted to the SMPE and are now being considered by various Society engineering committees. Reports of these committees' activities are scheduled to appear in the JOURNAL and will give an indication of current standards work.

Recently adopted standardization procedure of the SMPE provides for publication of all new standards proposals in the JOURNAL in the form of a complete committee report outlining the past history of each new standard, the story of its progress through Society committees, and a review of its ultimate effect on the industry. Following publication of this report, and a suitable waiting period of about 60 days, each new standard will go to letter ballot of the Committee on Standards if no unfavorable comments or criticisms are received. However, if any serious objection to the new proposal has been raised as a result of this publication, the standard will go back to the committee that prepared it with appropriate instructions from the engineering vice-president and the chairman of the Committee on Standards to assure that each serious comment receives thorough consideration. Then, following approval by the Committee on Standards, the customary standardization procedures are observed and the standard ultimately published.

### SECTION INSPECTS NEW RKO PATHE STUDIOS AND PATHE LABORATORIES

One of the largest groups ever to attend a meeting of the Atlantic Coast Section of the Society turned out on March 19 to inspect the new quarters of RKO Pathe Studios and Pathe Film Laboratories at Park Avenue and 106th St., New York. Walton C. Ament, vice-president and general manager of RKO Pathe Studios, reviewed the history of the building in which the new studios are housed and described certain features of the building that make it applicable to modern motion picture production. Frank Wooley, chief recording engineer, described the plan and production setup and facilities.

Nick Tronolone, vice-president and general manager of Pathe Laboratories, discussed the organization and laboratory facilities, and explained work being done in the laboratories.

Following these discussions in the Scoring Room, the audience broke up into small groups for an inspection tour of the studios and laboratory. A motion picture depicting the work of Alexander Graham Bell, produced by the studio, opened the meeting. An unexpectedly large attendance exceeded seating arrangements, and it was necessary to use an adjoining studio to accommodate the overflow. The attendance was estimated at 450.

**MAGNETIC RECORDING AND PHOTOEMISSIVE TUBES DESCRIBED**

Dr. S. Paksver, chief engineer of Continental Electric Company, presented a paper entitled "Factors Influencing the Life of Photoemissive Tubes," at the March 13 meeting of the Midwest Section of the Society in the Western Society of Engineers Hall, Chicago. Dr. Paksver outlined the fundamental theory of the phototube with special reference to the *S-1* and *S-4* types. His paper included numerous graphs showing the characteristics of these tubes and the time relation between fatigue and exposure. Microphonic effects and causes were also discussed.

The second paper on the program was presented by Marvin Camras, research physicist of the Armour Research Foundation, entitled "Magnetic Sound for Motion Pictures." Mr. Camras explained the principles of magnetic recording and described particularly the possibilities of using a metallic coating for a sound track on 35-, 16-, and 8-mm film. He elaborated on further developments and improvements made with this type of recording since he first presented the principles at the Hollywood Convention of the Society in October 1946. [His paper was published in the January 1947 *JOURNAL—Ed.*] Mr. Camras concluded his talk with an interesting presentation of magnetic sound recording on 16-mm film.

A. Shapiro, chairman of the Section, announced that the regular monthly meeting for April would be canceled in view of the 61st Semiannual Convention to be held in Chicago on April 21-25.

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*We are grieved to announce the deaths of L. D. Strong, Active member of the Society, on April 27, 1947, in Chicago, Ill., and S. E. Hawkins, Active member of the Society, on April 24, 1947, in Hollywood.*