

# Report of the President\*

**T**HIS IS THE semiannual report of the president to the members of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers. It is a statement of activities subsequent to the report submitted at the 61st Semiannual Convention of the Society in Chicago and published in the July, 1947, issue of the JOURNAL.

The Society now has a new home—a four-room suite on the ninth floor of the Canadian Pacific Building, 342 Madison Avenue, New York 17, N. Y. The entrance room number is 912 and the telephone number is Murray Hill 2-2185. There is a big “WELCOME” mat out to all members and friends. We want you to become better acquainted with our staff and to use these facilities. They are yours as members of this organization.

We enjoyed our long tenancy at the Hotel Pennsylvania and were sorry to leave its many conveniences but we had outgrown our old quarters and the hotel could not give us more room.

Our staff has both changed and grown. Harry Smith, Jr., who served the Society during the war, has resigned to go into business for himself. Mr. Boyce Nemeck has now been promoted to executive secretary. As you will recall, he joined the Society as engineering secretary upon his release from the Army's Signal Corps Photographic Division. He is doing a grand job. He is assisted by the new staff engineer, Mr. Thomas F. Lo Giudice; the JOURNAL editor, Miss Helen Stote; and Miss Margaret C. Kelly, office manager. In our office staff we also have Miss Beatrice Melican, Mrs. Silvyia Morrow, Miss Dorothy Johnson, and Miss Helen Long. We are proud of this organization.

The Society membership has now reached a new high of 2760 members. The member's equity in the Society is \$99,314.30 as of October 1, 1947. The sustaining membership under the chairmanship of our past-president, Mr. Donald E. Hyndman, now includes 42 companies which have expressed their interest in our activities by contributing \$15,650.

\* Presented October 20, 1947, at the SMPE Convention in New York.

At the Chicago Convention I reported that the scope of the Society had been defined to include all phases of pictorial rendition of action whether it be from film, as in motion pictures, or from electronics, as in television. The Society's facilities and staff are now prepared to handle this great field of activity and to be of greater service to more people. I am sure that each of you knows at least one person who can both contribute and profit by being a member. This is not an open plea for new members, for it is our desire to retain the high standard of our membership. We do wish, however, to bring within the fold of our organization all people who should rightfully be associated with us.

We now have the Atlantic Coast Section in New York, the Midwest Section in Chicago, the Pacific Coast Section in Hollywood, and a Student Chapter at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. Since it is a part of our duty to aid in the training program of young engineers, plans are under way for more Student Chapters at worthy institutions of higher learning.

Every major move that has been made by the Society has been made after careful consideration by the Board of Governors. As president of the Society and as chairman of the Board meetings, I call your attention to the fact that expansion entails increased responsibilities, financial and otherwise. As of this date our revenue, including sustaining membership, and our operating expense are about equal. We may show a deficit this year because of furnishing our new offices. Next year we should again show a 10 per cent or more excess of revenue over expense or we should curtail some of our activities. More members or more sustaining funds is, of course, the best answer.

The papers program for the 62nd Semiannual Convention, as for the 61st Convention in Chicago, was oversubscribed. We regret that convention time permitted the presentation of only those papers having greatest topical interest or the papers first to be submitted. It is our desire that our membership gain full advantage of all technical information through our JOURNAL and I want to encourage you to present more and more manuscripts for publication, even though time may not permit their presentation at conventions.

Few people realize that the JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY OF MOTION PICTURE Engineers is the one and only up-to-date and authoritative technical publication covering all phases of PICTORIAL RENDITION OF ACTION. We are proud to announce that in our postwar recovery our September issue went to press in September and shortly you will

receive the JOURNAL of the month during the first week of the month.

Your engineering vice-president, Mr. John A. Maurer, has continued to do a colossal job. At the request of the American Standards Association and with the approval of the Board, the Society jointly with The Institute of Radio Engineers has undertaken a special assignment in standardization of sound recording, including film, disk, and magnetic methods. This can be of great aid to all manufacturers and users of recording equipment. We expect that our Society will be in the same important position in regard to all large-screen television.

The theaters and the producers as a group have been slow in heeding the warning of the engineers in regard to theater television but individually there has been an awakening. Several producing companies have now taken out licenses and several others will follow. Our efforts in this respect as presented in last year's report have not been in vain.

I can now predict with assurance the great success of this our 62nd Semiannual Convention and Theater Engineering Conference. The credit for this undertaking and its success goes to our ever-efficient convention vice-president, Mr. W. C. Kunzmann, the Atlantic Coast Section chairman, Mr. James Frank, Jr., and the many persons who have contributed so liberally of their time and effort.

Between the time of the April report and this report, your president has been appointed to the American National Film Committee of the United Nations for which your past-president, Mr. D. E. Hyndman, is acting as representative. Your president has also been appointed to the Motion Picture Committee of the American Heritage Foundation with which I am sure you are all familiar.

By action of the Board of Governors of the Society the 63rd Semiannual Convention is to be held at the Santa Monica Ambassador Hotel and Del Mar Beach Club, May 17 to 21, inclusive. This convention will be general in its scope. Please be among those present—we shall make it worth your while.

Respectfully submitted,

LOREN L. RYDER, *President*