Section Meeting

Cleveland Meeting

The June 18, 1948, meeting of the Midwest Section was held in Cleveland, Ohio, at the General Electric Lighting Institute at Nela Park. Seventy-five guests and members attended this all-day affair and about twenty-five ladies attended the dinner and a special evening program.

The doors were open at 9:30 A.M. and coffee was served during the registration period.

At 10:00 A.M. the group was divided into smaller sections to visit the Sundeck Gallery, Horizon House, store, office, and school. Expertly handled demonstrations illustrated the methods used in creating lighting combinations which were truly dramatic and functional as well.

At 11:30 A.M., R. T. Van Niman, chairman, called the meeting to order in the Auditorium. F. T. Bowditch gave a résumé of the Report of the Standards committee as presented in Santa Monica. Frank Carlson was called upon as the representative of our host, the General Electric Lighting Institute, and welcomed all to Nela Park.

Gordon Chambers reported on the Santa Monica convention. He began with a series of Kodachrome slides which were projected on a large screen showing the Del Mar Beach Club, the surrounding territory, and some prominent members of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers. Mr. Chambers then summarized a few of the papers presented at the 63rd Semiannual Convention. Also he reported the high spots in the group of color papers which were presented on the coast.

"The Engineering Aspects of Drive-In Theaters," by George M. Peterson, Cleveland, Ohio, was next presented by the author. It was revealed in this paper that there are approximately 800 drive-in theaters in this country with average capacity for 500 cars each. Mr. Peterson stated that many operators "build their theaters without any engineering assistance," a fact which he greatly deplored. Subjects covered in this paper were: traffic problems, grading, ramps, sound circuits, surfacing, and screen building.

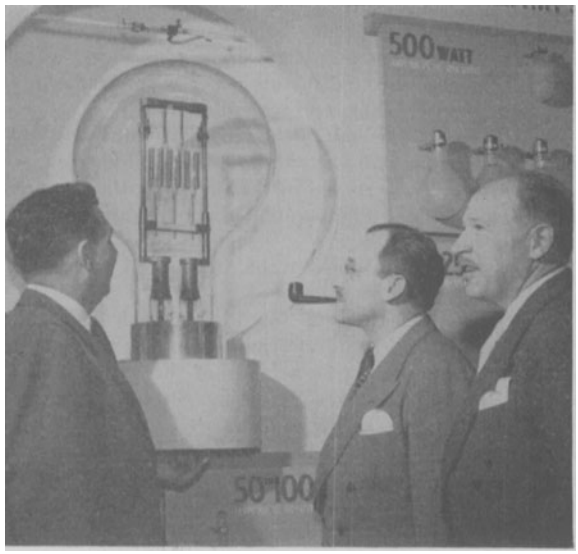
At 1:00 o'clock one half of the group visited the Automotive Lighting Laboratory, and the other half visited the Optical and Photographic Laboratories. After luncheon, which was served in the Cafeteria, the groups were reversed for visits to the Optical and Photographic Laboratories and the Automotive Lighting Laboratory.

The meeting was resumed in the Auditorium, with R. T. Van Niman presiding, at 3:15 P.M.

"Practical Applications of New Photographic Techniques," by John Campbell, vice-president, Jam Handy Organization, was supplemented by an 800-foot reel of 16-mm pictures showing samples of the various techniques described in the paper. "Light Sources for Television Studio Lighting," was given by Richard Blount of the General Electric Company. M. D. Temple of the Brush Development Company presented his talk, "Some Applications of Magnetic Recording in the Motion Picture Field," from a reel of tape which was recorded a few days previously in his living room and edited to match the series of slides which were simultaneously projected. Boyce Nemec, executive secretary of the SMPE, gave

R. T. Van Niman, chief sound engineer for Motiograph, chairman of the Midwest Section, and in charge of the program, and Frank E. Carlson, General Electric Lamp Department illuminating engineer and host to the group.

Typical scenes at the General Electric Lighting Institute, Nela Park, where the Midwest Section of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers held its June meeting at Cleveland. Nearly seventy members were in attendance for the day portion of the program.



Frank E. Carlson lights a tiny grain-of-wheat lamp with a huge 50-kilowatt lamp for R. T. Van Niman and G. W. Colburn, president of the G. W. Colburn Laboratories and secretary-treasurer of the Midwest Section.

a rather complete report on "Flicker in Motion Pictures; Further Studies," by L. D. Grignon, Twentieth Century-Fox Film Corporation. This paper was presented at Santa Monica in May and was considered an important contribution to the art for design of future equipment.

At 5:15 P.M. the meeting adjourned for refreshments at the Coffee Bar for members, guests, and their ladies. This was followed by dinner, which was served in the Managers' dining room. The only speech was by Mr. Van Niman leading a rising vote of thanks to our hosts, the General Electric Lighting Institute.

At 7:00 P.M. a popular lecture by Alston Rodgers of the General Electric Company called, "New Horizons in Lamp Research," was given. This was a combination magic and vaudeville show with amazing stage props which was highly entertaining and enlightening to engineer and layman alike.

"A Gearless, Sprocketless 8-Mm Projector," by Otto R. Nemeth, included a demonstration of this new 8-mm projector following a discussion of engineering features. This projector without gears or sprockets is driven directly from motor to shutter and cam shaft with a belt. The lamp is 750 watts, lens $f/1.6$, one inch, coated, and the mechanism is built into a self-contained carrying case with total weight $12^1/_2$ pounds.

Mr. Nemeth then gave a brief description of "A Professional Wire Recorder for Studio Use." The complete paper was presented at the Santa Monica Convention. This machine features a magazine for handling the wire and automatic threading.

"The Optimum Performance of High-Brightness Carbon Arcs," was next presented by F. T. Bowditch and M. T. Jones of the National Carbon Company. The arc trim described is applicable to studio lighting. The 16-mm positive and 11-mm negative carbon holders are water-cooled jaws. Current at the crater is about 450 amperes. The light output is in excess of 40,000 lumens.

"Tungsten-Filament Sources for Picture Projection," by D. A. Pritchard, of the General Electric Company, dealt with photometric measurements of various places in the optical system of a group of competitive projectors. The measured results indicate output performance as a percentage of light output. The report clearly indicated that peak performance may be obtained from standard equipment if there is proper alignment of the tungsten filament.

"A Photometric Analysis of Picture-Projection Systems," by Edward E. Bickel of the Simpson Optical Manufacturing Company, was comprised of a mathematical and geometrical analysis of factors limiting the light output of motion picture projection systems. Based on mathematical values, performance results were computed that compared with actual laboratory test results. The formulas given establish limits beyond which it is physically impossible to go.

While the foregoing papers were presented, the ladies attended special demonstrations at "Horizon House" by Aileen Page and "Color and Indoor Sunshine" by Alston Rodgers.