

# Engineering Committees

---

## Magnetic Recording

The Magnetic Recording Subcommittee under the chairmanship of Glenn Dimmick has drawn up and circulated proposed dimensional standards for magnetic sound tracks on 35-, 17½-, and 16- and 8-mm motion picture film. These proposals are the result of a three-year attempt to develop standards that will meet with universal approval. While isolated opinions hold that some further modifications may be necessary, it is the majority opinion that publication and wide circulation of the current proposals will help crystallize thinking and lead to earlier agreement.

Of particular interest in the amateur field is the proposed standard for 8-mm magnetic tracks which will permit the addition of sound to 8-mm motion picture films. Several manufacturers are now preparing to announce 8-mm projectors with magnetic sound reproducers. If these standards, possibly with some modification, can be accepted soon, a tremendous saving for the manufacturers and the ultimate users will be realized. Early agreement will also prevent great confusion which will result if 8-mm sound films are not interchangeable among the projectors of various manufacturers.

These proposals cannot be scheduled to appear in the *JOURNAL* in less than sixty days, but draft copies are available from Society headquarters. If you wish to review them prior to publication, write Bill Deacy at headquarters, and he will be glad to supply you.

## New Release Print Leader

Charles Townsend's Subcommittee of the Films for Television Committee is working on a proposed first version of a revised type of release print leader. The project was undertaken several months ago when the television broadcasters announced that the Academy leader Z22.55 does not meet their needs in at least three important respects. Precise timing of films, necessary in television broadcasting, is not possible. The long series of black frames immediately preceding the picture cause excessive flare under conventional television switching procedures and also prevent the control engineer from anticipating the normal picture gain setting for the picture coming up. Mechanical alignment of projectors and television cameras is particularly critical and should be checked, at least approximately, before every picture goes on the air.

From the outset, it was agreed that any new leader must fill the needs of both television and theater interests and should work well on both 35- and 16-mm release prints if it were to be unanimously accepted. Otherwise, serious confusion would be caused in film laboratories and exchanges by two types of leaders.

A 35-mm negative of the new proposal will be available very shortly. If you desire a trial print, Society headquarters will be glad to supply one in either 16- or 35-mm width.

# Society Announcements

---

## New Sustaining Member

The Society is pleased to welcome Neumade Products Corp. as the most recent addition to the rolls of our Sustaining Members. The total now stands at 73, with several more now negotiating. The financial support provided furnishes tangible evidence of faith in the Society's engineering committee work, and makes it possible for more projects to be undertaken and a higher percentage to be completed each year. The ambitious publications program, which includes not only the *JOURNAL* but also reports and symposia, also benefits all members.