

68th Semiannual Convention

The 1950 fall convention of the Society was the first in many years to be held away from a large city. Society Officers, whose duty it was to select the place of meeting, felt that easy exchange of ideas and renewal of old friendships during recent big city meetings had been reduced to nearly zero by attractive opportunities to "do a little business" between sessions. As a consequence, the comradeship that characterized earlier Society conventions had all but disappeared. Feeling that business and current increase in membership, together with the addition of a comparatively heavy interest in television matters should not be permitted to depersonalize these functions, they agreed to try holding another resort convention. The unanimous choice was the Lake Placid Club in the Adirondack Mountains of upper New York State. Enthusiastic attendance of members from all parts of the United States and Canada proved the appropriateness of this location as a site for the Society's 68th convention in thirty-four years.

Sufficient free time between sessions or committee meetings was provided for old-timers to talk with their friends, and for members newly active to meet others with common interests. Ample discussion time during technical sessions was allowed also, by limiting in advance both the number and length of papers scheduled. Members were generally enthusiastic about the way this convention was handled, favoring particularly the unhurried atmosphere.

Several equipment displays in the lobby of the Club attracted members during off hours. General Precision Laboratories demonstrated a 16-mm professional projector which was recently developed. Mr. Frank H. McIntosh had his unique amplifiers on exhibit, with several new magnetic recording and reproducing equipments made by Westrex. RCA showed microphones, recording equipment and a 16-mm sound projector, equipped to reproduce release prints having magnetic sound track in the conventional photographic track position. Reeves Sounderaft provided the release prints. Members who were not familiar with equipment used in high-speed photography, examined thoroughly the Fastax Camera, displayed by Wollensak.

Coffee, light refreshments and a comfortable place for off-hours conversation were provided to all comers by the Club Coffee Shop, which remained open throughout the convention under the generous auspices of the Radio Corporation of America.

Board of Governors Meeting

Preceding the convention opening by one day, the Board of Governors met Sunday, October 15, to hear reports of Society activities for the third quarter of the year. Recommendations to individual officers, as well as to the Society headquarters staff were made, covering current policy questions and certain specific aspects of the Society's work for the concluding quarter. Among items on the Board's agenda were: individual and sustaining membership programs; the consideration of possible scholarships that might be awarded sometime in the future; a plan to revise the Society's Administrative Practices (those general rules which apply to operation of committees and the Headquarters office), and the current work on the design of a new Society emblem to symbolize in simple style the scope of the Society's work more adequately than does the present combination of film reel and television picture tube.

At the close of the meeting, a panel of tellers was appointed to count ballots for the annual election of members to the Board. Successful candidates were:

Peter Mole, President; Herbert Barnett, Executive Vice-President; John G. Frayne, Editorial Vice-President, William C. Kunzmann, Convention Vice-President; Robert M. Corbin, Secretary; and Governors—William B. Lodge, Oscar F. Neu, Frank E. Carlson, Malcolm G. Townsley, Thomas T. Moulton, Norwood L. Simmons and Lloyd Thompson.

These new officers and Board members assume their official duties January 1, 1951, but many will have been busy during the intervening months with appointment of committees, potential project assignments or plans for some portion of the 1951 budget.

Lake Placid

Transportation to the convention threatened to be a problem, since all available space on Colonial Airlines and on New York Central trains to Lake Placid had been reserved from Saturday through Monday, October 16, by Society members. Supplemental transportation, however, was furnished by a large number of East Coast members who drove their own cars so that no one was left out. There were several who drove long distances: Mr. and Mrs. Emery Huse from Hollywood; Mr. and Mrs. George Colburn from Chicago; and Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Van Niman from Indianapolis.

Many arrived early or stayed after the proceedings had officially terminated on the afternoon of Friday, October 20, to enjoy the scenery or play a little golf. Total registration was 218, not including Army, Navy and Air Force representatives. Bill Kunzmann's most optimistic estimate of attendance was exceeded by at least nineteen registrants.

In accord with Earl Sponable's plan to have informality prevail, there was no formal luncheon on Monday and no awards were presented during the banquet and dance Wednesday evening. The threat of "no speeches" which had become a familiar and traditional figure of speech was at last a well-kept promise, with the result that not a single formal word was uttered during the mid-week festivities. To the contrary, some of the members provided a handsome share to their own entertainment. George Colburn made more than tolerable music come out of a "musical broom." John Frayne distinguished himself by "calling" several square dances in his best stentorian tones.

Not all was fun and frolic, however, for the convention did have its serious side. Ed Seeley, Program Chairman, with the generous aid of Walter Simons and the entire Papers Committee, had prepared a well-organized program of technical papers. Related items appeared on the same session so that members who were interested in only one group of papers were not required to sit through the entire convention to hear them. All papers on the program are listed at the back of this issue. One paper from this convention appeared in the November JOURNAL and six others are published in this issue.

The Annual Business Meeting of the Society was called to order at 2:00 P.M., Monday afternoon, by Mr. Sponable. Members were asked to vote on formal approval of the proposed award of Honorary Membership to Dr. Zworykin for his early work in the development of television. Approval was unanimous.

Magnetic tape recordings were made of all the questions and answers that made up the discussions following many of the 51 papers or reports presented during the 9 technical sessions. Throughout the convention, Harry Braun and Bob Sherwood operated both the Altec public address equipment and RCA tape recorder. The Columbia Broadcasting System furnished four microphones, used to pick up discussion questions from the meeting floor. Immediately following the convention, Clyde Keith had the recordings transcribed and has since provided the

Editor with 50 pp. of manuscript that should add materially to the value of the papers when they appear later in the pages of the JOURNAL.

Publicity was very nicely handled by Harold Desfor and by Miss Melican of the Society Headquarters staff, who wrote and released two publicity stories each day, one mailed from Lake Placid and the other delivered at the same time by messenger in New York to the wire services, motion picture and television trade papers, and the New York daily newspapers. As a result of careful attention to publicity, this convention received better press coverage than any previous one.

The reaction of nearly all who attended was enthusiastic and, without being trite, it is safe to say that from nearly all viewpoints the 68th Convention was a success. There was one unfavorable aspect, however, that deserves mention. The remote location made it impractical for many members, who usually attend for one or two days, or who wished to hear specific papers, to be on hand. Under more customary circumstances, when a convention is held in New York City or in Hollywood, nearly one-half of the 400 to 800 members who attend do so on a daily basis. These members are persons whose interest is specialized or whose work prevents them from attending all sessions. They are the ones who stand to benefit most from papers and subsequent discussions. Being largely Associate and Student members, they will ultimately be the Active members of the Society and consequently will be accepting positions of future responsibility in the industry.

ANNUAL AWARDS

Growth of both motion pictures and television from a comparatively few basic ideas to the proportions of a major industry has been marked by occasional technical milestones, each primarily contributed by one individual. The Society attempts to recognize these important contributions by conferring several annual awards to persons adjudged most worthy of receiving such honors. This year, one entire session, Monday evening, was set aside for recognition of the work of twenty-one individuals.

New Fellows of the Society

President Sponable formally inducted the following as new Fellows of the Society:

Gerald J. Badgley, U.S. Naval Photographic Center
George L. Beers, Radio Corporation of America, RCA Victor Div.
Herbert E. Bragg, Twentieth Century-Fox Film Corp.
Fred W. Gage, Warner Brothers Pictures, Inc.
Raymond L. Garman, General Precision Laboratory, Inc.
Watson Jones, Radio Corporation of America, RCA Victor Div.
Frederick J. Kolb, Jr., Eastman Kodak Co.
John P. Livadary, Columbia Pictures Corp.
William B. Lodge, Columbia Broadcasting System
Boyce Nemeç, Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers
Charles Rosher, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer
John H. Waddell, Wollensak Optical Co.
Emerson Yorke, Emerson Yorke Studio