

Engineering Committee Meetings

Six Engineering Committees met during the 70th Convention; three at the Headquarters of the American Society of Cinematographers (High-Speed Photography, Sound, Film Dimensions) and three at the Staff Engineer's suite in the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel.

High-Speed Photography. This Committee, Chaired by John Waddell, met Monday afternoon with an attendance of four Committee members and 14 guests. The key activities consisted of an outline of future Committee work and an effort to expand the work of the Society to better serve the West Coast high-speed photography members.

Sound. This Committee, Chaired by Lloyd Goldsmith, met Tuesday morning with an attendance of 11 members and 15 guests. A very considerable agenda was thoroughly discussed and concrete action undertaken for the future. Key issues were the questions of edge guiding and magnetic recording standards and test films.

Laboratory Practice. Chaired by John Stott, this Committee met Tuesday afternoon with 10 members and guests attend-

ing. Several items of importance were discussed and definitive progress made on proposals for negative cuing for printer light changing and brightness of screens in laboratory review rooms.

Color. This Committee, Chaired by Herman Duerr, met Wednesday morning with a rather small attendance of six members and guests. The small attendance precluded any specific actions, but did permit a general but useful discussion on several of the projects before the Committee.

Screen Brightness. Chaired by Wallace Lozier, the Thursday afternoon meeting of this Committee was attended by 10 members and guests who discussed methods of utilizing the theater survey recently completed. In addition, a first draft of the revision of the screen brightness Standard was agreed upon.

Film Dimensions. This Committee, Chaired by A. C. Robertson (alternate for E. K. Carver), met Friday afternoon with a total attendance of six members and guests. Despite the attendance, there was an excellent discussion on low-shrink film and a first draft of a Standard was agreed upon for circulation to the full Committee.

Board of Governors Meeting

The fourth meeting of the Board of Governors during 1951 was held on Saturday morning, October 13, at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel in Hollywood, California. It preceded by two days the opening of the Society's 70th Semiannual Convention also held at the Hollywood Roosevelt, and was remarkably well attended. The meeting ended early in the afternoon. A number of Board members left immediately for a chuck wagon dinner sponsored by the Theater Equipment and Supply Manufacturers Association.

FINANCIAL

R. B. Austrian presented the third quarterly financial statement and in the absence of F. E. Cahill, Jr., Treasurer, also read the treasurer's report. It was noted that test film sales, financial aspects of publications and all other administrative operations were within the limits of the

1951 budget. Loss of members who were delinquent in payment of dues continues to be a serious problem. On September 30 there were 300 delinquent members, each of whom had received two membership dues bills and two written invitations for reinstatement. Although still high, this figure had been reduced from 395, the total of delinquent members on June 30, 1951.

The Board was also advised that while recuperating from a recent operation Pierre Mertz saw in a New York newspaper a list of unclaimed monies in the Chase National Bank. He discovered that the list included a "Society of Motion Picture Engineers, address unknown." Dr. Mertz notified headquarters and Mr. Muskat contacted the bank, arranging to pick up an amount of \$101.00 that was found to be an unclaimed foreign bank draft held open by the bank since 1936.

As Chairman of the Sustaining Memberships Committee Mr. Sponable, Past-President, reported that he had recently approved the printing of an illustrated brochure to be sent promptly to all Sustaining members of the Society with an individual letter inviting a nominal increase in Sustaining support. He pointed out that this would be the beginning of the Society's Sustaining campaign for 1952 and would ultimately include invitations to a large number of businesses not now represented. He received the suggestion that the large number of television film producers whose work is guided technically by the Society be invited to support the Society's technical work through the medium of Sustaining memberships.

ENGINEERING

F. T. Bowditch, Engineering Vice-President, invited the Board's attention to the schedule of six engineering committee meetings planned for Convention week. A brief report on these committee meetings appears elsewhere in this issue of the *Journal*. Nearly all of the engineering committees had been busy for the past several months reviewing current American standards preparatory to listing for the International Organization for Standardization the ones most suitable for consideration as future international standards. In this connection he pointed out that there had been little real interest among ASA's Photo Correlating Committee in the field of international motion picture standards and that, consequently, there was little enthusiasm for a projected meeting on this subject in New York during June 1952. Since these were the views generally held by engineers in the eastern part of the United States, Mr. Bowditch reported his plan to sound out a number of West Coast opinions on the merits of international standards for motion pictures and on the projected meeting.

If held, host for the international meeting would be Sectional Committee PH22. It had been this committee's view that the meeting should be called if a satisfactory agenda could be developed by early 1952. In that case ASA would be asked to send out the official call for the meeting early in January so that delegates could make their plans in ample time to attend.

There was also extended discussion of a

glossary project that had received some attention over the past ten years but had never been attacked vigorously. Mr. Carlson, a Governor and also Chairman of the Standards Committee of the Society, reported that he had arranged for the engineering committees to revive this job by working on a number of sections which Hank Kogel, Staff Engineer, was, at that moment, organizing.

As a matter of interest it was noted that the proposed FCC theater television hearings were again postponed—from November 26, 1951, to February 25, 1952.

Boyce Nemeec, Executive Secretary, reported on a meeting of study group 10 of the International Radio Consultative Committee (CCIR) which he and G. L. Dimmick, Magnetic Recording Subcommittee Chairman, had attended in Washington on September 27. Sound recording characteristics was the subject of the session and the meeting was under the chairmanship of Neal McNaughton of the National Association of Radio and Television Broadcasters. He was appointed Chairman of the study group at the VI Plenary Assembly of the CCIR, which was held in Geneva from June 5 to July 6, 1951.

Purpose of the meeting was the discussion of recording characteristics for disk and magnetic records used in the international exchange of radio program material. The technical aspects of the problem were not considered by the Board, but Mr. Nemeec expressed some concern over the sudden interest shown by CCIR, a telecommunications regulatory body in the field of industrial international standards. There was an apparent conflict with similar activities now beginning to move through the ASA-ISO channels and Mr. Bowditch offered to look into the question more thoroughly with the object of forming an official SMPTE policy.

EDITORIAL

J. G. Frayne, Editorial Vice-President, reported that his share of program arrangements for the 70th Convention was already completed and that the success of the Papers Committee had been largely the result of efforts by Fred Albin, West Coast Vice-Chairman, and E. S. Seeley, Chairman of the Papers Committee. Ed Templin, Chairman of the West Coast Public Address and Recording Committee,

had set up and operated the public address equipment built by Fred Whitney, headquarters engineer. Mr. Templin had also arranged to check out all of the sound engineers who were scheduled to operate the equipment during the Convention. Standardized operating techniques were developed and that job was running smoothly for the first time in many years. Messrs. Frayne and Grignon reported upon the work of Grignon's Society Emblem Committee and the Board selected one of three committee recommendations as the final emblem to be worked into the *Journal* cover, stationery, and perhaps lapel pins. The design had been developed by Melvin Stewart, a West Coast design student, and Mr. Grignon was authorized to convey the Board's gratitude for his serious contribution.

NEW SUBSECTION

C. R. Daily, Chairman of the Pacific Coast Section, discussed a request from a number of Society members in the San Francisco area for permission to form a local subsection under the administrative guidance of the existing Pacific Coast Section Board of Managers. P. A. Williams, who served as spokesman for the San Francisco group, had cited the subsection provisions of the IRE constitution and submitted persuasive argument in favor of a parallel organization within this Society. The Board resolved to authorize such a subsection under the proposed arrangement, and Dr. Daily was instructed to advise Mr. Williams and his associates that the Society would support a program of meetings under the Pacific Coast Section Board of Managers.

CONVENTIONS

W. C. Kunzmann, Convention Vice-President, reported that all arrangement for the 70th Convention had been crystallized and that he had made firm commitments for four additional conventions:

- 71st: Hotel Drake, Chicago, Ill., April 21-25, 1952.
- 72nd: Hotel Statler, Washington, D.C., October 5-10, 1952.
- 73rd: Hotel Statler, Los Angeles, Calif., April 26-30, 1953.
- 74th: Hotel Statler, New York, N.Y., October 1953.

For several years the Board of Governors had considered the merits of replacing the Spring Convention with a series of regional meetings, each of perhaps a day's duration, to be held in areas away from the usual Convention cities and at times when it was unlikely that local people would be attending distant national meetings. The notably successful regional meetings arranged in recent years by the Central Section in Cleveland, Toledo and Detroit were evidence that members in those cities, who are rarely able to attend national conventions, will support occasional meetings "at home." There was extended consideration of *Journal* and Papers complications that might result from such a major change in the Society's convention practices. It had also been suggested that even if the Society were to continue holding two national Conventions each year a series of regional meetings would be of substantial benefit to the Society from a membership standpoint and would also give members in areas where there is considerable motion picture or television activity an opportunity to discuss their mutual problems under professional-technical auspices. No conclusions were reached but the Board will continue to keep a watchful eye on such affairs as the Central Section regional meetings scheduled for Dallas, Texas, on November 7, and for Chicago on November 10.

ELECTIONS

Before concluding the meeting President Mole announced the results of the Society election for 1951. The following officers assume office on January 1, 1952, for a two-year term ending December 31, 1953.

Frank E. Cahill, Jr., Financial Vice-President

Barton Kreuzer, Treasurer
Fred T. Bowditch, Engineering Vice-President

J. E. Aiken, Governor, Atlantic Coast
Axel G. Jensen, Governor, Atlantic Coast
G. W. Colburn, Governor, Central Section
E. W. D'Arcy, Governor, Central Section
F. G. Albin, Governor, Pacific Coast
J. K. Hilliard, Governor, Pacific Coast

Although all section election returns were not completed in time for the Board meeting, the new Boards of Managers were announced subsequently as follows:

Atlantic Coast Section

E. M. Stifle, Chairman, reelected
H. C. Milholland, Secretary-Treasurer, reelected
Frank N. Gillette, Manager 1952-1953
John G. Stott, Manager, 1952-1953
Richard Hodgson, Manager, 1952-1953

Central Section

C. E. Heppberger, Chairman, 1952
James L. Wassell, Secretary, 1952
Kenneth M. Mason, Manager, 1952-1953

James E. Dickert, Manager, 1952-1953
William C. Eddy, Manager, 1952-1953
Reid H. Ray, Manager (appointed to fill out Howard T. Nuttall's term), 1952

Pacific Coast Section

Vaughn C. Shaner, Chairman, 1952
Phillip C. Caldwell, Secretary-Treasurer, 1952
Arthur C. Blaney, Manager, 1952-1953
Linwood G. Dunn, Manager, 1952-1953
Alan M. Gundelfinger, Manager, 1952-1953

Engineering Activities

Six Engineering Committees utilized the recent 70th Convention as a desirable time and place to meet. The highlights of the first three meetings are outlined below; the other three will be described in the next *Journal*.

High-Speed Photography

1. *Scope and Name of Committee.* Photography has been playing an increasing role in the solution of diverse engineering problems. This fact led the Committee to apply to the Board of Governors for a change in scope (and name) to encompass all such applications. The Chairman advised the group that the request had been rejected to preclude consideration of non-motion picture aspects of photography. It was understood, however, that all engineering uses of motion picture photography, whether high-speed or not, properly fall within the scope of the present committee.

2. *West Coast Members.* Their problems were discussed at length. These stem from their desire to have the Committee serve a dual function, part Engineering Committee and part Society Section. The suggestion was made that this latter role be correlated with other West Coast Section activity. Arrangements for this have since been made and Roy Wolford has been delegated to work through Charles Daily, Vaughn Shaner and the Section Program Chairman who still is to be appointed.

3. *Future Committee Work.* It was noted in general terms that a need exists for standards in high-speed photography

equipment and that this would be given a high priority at subsequent meetings.

4. *Next Symposium.* At the Chairman's request Mr. Painter accepted the responsibility for organizing the next symposium at the coming Chicago Convention.

5. *New Chairman.* Mr. Waddell is to step down at the end of the year, in accordance with requirements of the Bylaws, and at that time a new chairman will be appointed.

Sound

1. *Edge Guiding.* The recent ballot on revision of PH22.41, PH22.80 and PH22.81 was far from decisive and merely served to emphasize the division existing on the subject. It was felt that the ballot should have contained a more extensive story on the pros and cons of the issue. In addition a fourth alternative was proposed: guide the perforated edge at the picture gate and the sound track edge at the sound head. A Subcommittee was formed, chaired by Malcolm Townsley, to prepare a report of all the factors for use as background material in a new ballot on the question.

2. *International Standardization.* The group endorsed the program of international standards activity as proposed by Lloyd Goldsmith, Chairman, and Fred Bowditch, Engineering Vice-President.

3. *Nomenclature for Electric Filters, PH22.33-1941.* This was never an American Standard but rather a Recommendation (an ASA classification which no longer exists). The committee was asked to recommend that it be either standardized or dropped. The consensus was that it