

Engineering Activities

71st Convention The Engineering Committee meetings at the 71st Convention were in the main well attended and demonstrated a high degree of member participation and interest. The highlights of the meetings are:

Film Dimensions The further decrease in the shrinkage characteristics of 16mm film creates a twofold problem: (1) the width must be decreased to preclude film stickage in the gate; and (2) a decrease in the stated width dimension in the standard might erroneously lead equipment manufacturers to decrease the gate dimension and thereby start a disastrous merry-go-round.

The proposed solution was that the existing standard be revised by placing an asterisk beside the width dimension and indicating below that for low-shrink film the standard is 0.628 ± 0.001 . Low-shrink film would then be defined in the Appendix. A letter ballot on this proposal will be sent shortly to the full committee.

Film-Projection Practice The committee first outlined plans for a major increase in activity and then reviewed a previous recommendation that American Standard Z22.58, Projector Aperture Dimensions, was unsuitable for international standardization. It is now felt that although certain features of the standard do require revision, the basic dimensions are valid and valuable both here and abroad and the previous recommendation was therefore reversed.

Laboratory Practice The three active projects were reviewed and a fourth one proposed:

1. The Proposed American Standard Enlargement Ratio for 16mm to 35mm Optical Printing, published in the January

Journal, is now well on its way toward standardization.

2. Screen Brightness for Laboratory Review Rooms, presently out to letter ballot, is meeting with difficulty primarily because of the conflicting needs of three classes of 16mm print consumers: amateur, television and Navy. This is now to be considered by the Screen Brightness Committee, after which this committee will attempt to draft a compromise proposal.

3. Printer Light Change Cueing of 16mm Negatives, a proposal to eliminate negative notching, has just been sent to the committee. Preliminary comments at the meeting indicated that redrafting may be required.

4. A new project to produce a glossary of chemical terms used in motion picture laboratories was initiated.

High-Speed Photography In addition to the primary discussion on preparations and responsibilities for the symposium at the Fall Convention in Washington, the committee discussed the need for a glossary and agreed upon the initial steps to achieve one.

Screen Brightness The various subcommittees reported on their progress to date and mention was made of the formation of a new subcommittee on illumination practices to make recommendations on uniformity of illumination across the screen. The ICI recommendations on screen brightness were discussed and it was noted that the American Standard falls within the recommended range:

ICI = 7.3-14.6 ft-L

American Standard = 9-14 ft-L

Plans were made to continue the screen brightness survey of outdoor theaters as soon as weather permits.

16mm and 8mm An extensive agenda was considered and a continued high level of activity projected. As a result, the full committee will soon be voting on revisions of six standards in an effort to make them consistent as to emulsion position, edge guiding and titles (Z22.9, .10, .15, .16, .21, .22). A letter ballot is also to be taken on a compromise proposal on PH22.75, "A" and "B" Windings of 16mm Raw Stock which may resolve the existing deadlock on this thorny issue. Reels for a 15-min show (600-ft size) as well as reels over 2000 ft were discussed and assignments given for gathering additional required information.

Sound Of the several items considered, the magnetic sound track proposals were, of course, paramount. These were published in the July 1951 *Journal* for trial and criticism and it was up to the committee to pass on the comments received. After a full and rounded discussion, the committee approved the proposals as published, with minor modifications which in the main are editorial

in nature, and officially submitted them to the Standards Committee for further processing as American Standards.

Consideration was briefly given to other magnetic sound track proposals and also to magnetic test films. The nature of the discussion revealed the need for a meeting of the Magnetic Recording Subcommittee which was scheduled for and held the following day. The Subcommittee reached no decisions but proceeded efficiently to outline a major program of work on test film specifications (azimuth and multifrequency) and additional sound track standards.

ISO Delegation A very workmanlike job was done to prepare the group for its role at the forthcoming meeting of ISO TC/36 in New York on June 9 and 10. The delegation discussed point by point the position it would take on the various Agenda items. A copy of the Agenda for the international meeting and the U.S. position is available upon request.—*Henry Kogel*, Staff Engineer.

University Film Producers Association

The University Film Producers Association held its first meeting in the summer of 1947 at the University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa. The organization came into being as a result of the evidenced need for university film makers to meet and discuss their mutual problems. The initial session was a one week's conference and workshop. This pattern was so successful that the group still follows it.

At the time of the first meeting, many problems confronted the university film producers, such as personnel, music rights, exchange, distribution, technical practice and laboratory service. Many universities had the same problems. Some had solutions, some did not. It was evident that a clearinghouse was needed for the exchange of information and ideas.

The first meeting included representatives from nine educational institutions

and two commercial organizations. Today there are approximately 60 members from educational institutions, as well as representatives from commercial film companies, laboratories, film distributors, and equipment manufacturers.

The purpose of the University Film Producers Association has been very clear since the inception of the organization. "It shall be the purpose of the UFPA to further and develop the potentialities of the photographic and recording arts in improving instruction and communication." Individuals, organizations and educational institutions qualified for membership are encouraged and invited to join the University Film Producers Association. There are at present four classifications of membership: active, associate, institutional and sustaining.