

Section and Subsection Meetings

A meeting of the **Southwest Subsection** was held on November 20, 1953, at the Continental National Bank auditorium, Fort Worth, Texas. Guest speakers were George H. Brown, Director, Systems Research Laboratory, Princeton, N.J., and Robert E. Shelby, Director, Color TV Systems and Development, NBC New York, who discussed "Compatible Color Television and Its Relationship to the Broadcaster." Their discussion covered the NTSC compatible color television signal in terms of brightness signal combined with a color subcarrier which conveys hue and saturation information, and reviewed a number of the factors which influenced the choice of the color subcarrier frequency as well as some which influenced compatibility. Some transmitter requirements and related measuring equipment and methods were also described. Attendance was over 80, including some IRE members as guests. *W. W. Gilbreath*, Secretary-Treasurer, Southwest Subsection, 3732 Stanford St., Dallas, Texas.

The **Pacific Coast Section** met on Tuesday evening, November 17, 1953, at Republic Studios in the San Fernando Valley. The program included a description and tour of the new Republic sound stage units, a screening of selections from a recent Republic wide-screen production, and a discussion of stereophonic sound by one of the top experts in the field.

Members were particularly impressed by the new television film production sound stages and the excellent technical discussion by Dan Bloomberg concerning their design and use. The color quality of a reel of daily rushes from the current production, *Johnny Guitar*, starring Joan Crawford and processed by Consolidated Film Industries, was also most impressive.

Following the opening film, William B. Snow discussed "Stereophonic and Pseudo-Stereophonic Sound in Motion-Picture Production," including an explanation of the use of such clues as intensity, quality and arrival time in creating the stereophonic illusion. Factors which aid in pickup were shown to cause complications in

the listening room. Particular emphasis was given to the relationship between true stereophonic pickup and the pseudo-stereophonic methods employing electrical controls during re-recording to produce sound movement.

Approximately 450 persons attended the meeting. The Pacific Coast Section is very grateful to Mr. Bloomberg and his staff for their excellent cooperation in making the many arrangements necessary for handling a meeting of this size.—*Philip G. Caldwell*, Secretary-Treasurer, Pacific Coast Section, ABC Television Center, Hollywood 27, Calif.

The January 5th meeting of the **Pacific Coast Section**, held at the NBC Television Studios, Burbank, was an unusually interesting and popular program—an operating demonstration of color television, including the new NBC Mobile Color TV Unit brought to Southern California for the color telecast of the New Year's Day Rose Parade.

The meeting was conducted informally with a demonstration running continuously from 2:00 to 4:30 p.m., and during this time the audience was free to visit the exterior pickup location where two color cameras were in use, the mobile pickup unit and a stage where four color receivers were in operation. Attendance was about 600, and response to the picture quality and color was enthusiastic.

This very successful program was made available to the Section through the courtesy of O. B. Hanson, Vice-President and Chief Engineer of NBC New York, and A. H. Saxton, Manager, Technical Network Operations, NBC Hollywood.—*E. W. Templin*, Secretary-Treasurer, Pacific Coast Section, c/o Westrex Corp., 6601 Romaine St., Hollywood 38, Calif.

The **Central Section** held a meeting at the Western Society of Engineers building on January 21. The large auditorium was used and some 80 members were in attendance. "Basic Chemistry of Photography," a paper presented by Thomas T. Hill, Chief Photographic Chemist, Ringwood Chemical Corp., outlined the role of chemistry and of chemicals in the photographic process from the standpoint of motion-picture engineering. After describing the

physical properties and constitution of motion-picture film, Mr. Hill discussed some of the controls which are possible with chemicals and the precautions necessary to avoid difficulty with developer and fixing solutions.

A second paper, "A History of Color Film Reproduction," was given by Ray Balousek, President of Grossman-Knowling, Detroit. The first part of this paper was concerned with the historical highlights of color cinematography from the first two-color Kodachrome and two-color Technicolor imbibition process up to the present 35mm negative-positive color films. The second part discussed present-day problems in regard to color slide film animation, particularly with negative-positive films. Illustrative slides were shown on all phases of these processes and a slide film reviewed some of the historical color procedures.—*K. M. Mason*, Secretary-Treasurer, Central Section, 137 North Wabash Ave., Chicago.

Obituaries

George K. Spoor, one of the pioneers of the motion-picture industry, died November 24, 1953. He was 81 years old.

He was born in Highland Park, Ill., left school at 16 and went to work for the North Western Railroad. At the age of 23 he met the inventor of the magniscope, a precursor of the moving picture machine. George Spoor invested in it and in 1897 he and Gilbert M. (Broncho Billy) Anderson founded the Essanay Film Company in Chicago. Two years later he bought the rights to the kinedrome, a moving picture projector, and during the succeeding years, until the lot closed in 1916, the Essanay Company was the proving ground for many of the greatest stars of the silent films.

Also prominent as an inventor of motion picture equipment, Spoor worked for years on the three-dimensional process known as Natural Vision. A description of his achievements, after 7 years of experimenting, was published in the *New York Times* of August 21, 1923. In 1925 he showed 3-D films to an invited gathering in Chicago and comments such as "Clear as real life!" "This puts ordinary movies in a class with lantern slides!" and "Just like looking through a plate glass window!" flew thick and fast. However a 3-D film entitled

Danger Nights, which was offered for public consumption in 1930, proved an economic failure.

Hyman Goldin died on January 6, 1954, in Toronto. He was 48 years old.

Mr. Goldin received his early education in Montreal and graduated from the University of Toronto. Until 1946 he was with Dominion Sound Equipments (Canadian Westrex), from 1946 to 1951 he was Chief Engineer of Gaumont-Kalee, Toronto, and since 1951 Chief Engineer of Perkins Electric Co., Toronto. During the war he was loaned to the Canadian Government and assisted in perfecting the intercommunications system used in Lancaster bombers. For the past three years he had been working as a consulting engineer on acoustic problems. He served on various committees of the SMPTE and in Canada was an active member of the Canadian Standards Association Committee Z7.1 on Motion Picture Photography.

Book Reviews

Television Broadcasting

By Howard A. Chinn. Published (1953) by McGraw-Hill, 330 W. 42 St., New York 36, N.Y. i-ix + 690 pp. + 10 pp. index. 346 illus. 6 × 9 in. Price \$10.00.

This book is intended for the television broadcast operator. It should be particularly timely for the many radio engineers who face television operations for the first time, in the hundreds of new stations being built. It is a single complete reference volume covering the practical problems of television broadcast station construction and operation.

Mr. Chinn writes with authority befitting his stature and vast experience in the broadcast field. Those who share an acquaintance with Mr. Chinn can appreciate the patience and diligence which have gone into the book's preparation.

The book is readable. It is not so theoretical as to be discouraging, and yet the meat is there. For example, the synchronizing generator, which is the most difficult piece of equipment for the uninitiated to comprehend, is adequately explained. Sufficient information is given for a basic