

shadowing the impacts and applications to be described in subsequent technical papers.

On Tuesday evening 157 attended the Pioneers' Dinner at the Columbia Country Club to honor 26 members who were members of the Society in 1924 or earlier. A complete report of these pioneer awards will appear in a later *Journal*.

Instead of the usual Banquet and Dance, a Dinner-Dance was the feature entertainment, held on Thursday evening and attended by 203.

Besides the reception by Mrs. Eisenhower, the Ladies Program included a sightseeing trip to Broadcast House and National Cathedral, an evening at the Academia of the Motion Picture Association, and a trip to Arlington, Va., and Mount Vernon.

Complimentary theater admissions were extended by RKO Keith, Stanley-Warner Metropolitan, Du Mont (Lopert), Loew's Capitol, Loew's Palace, Playhouse (Lopert) and Warner Theatre (Cinerama).

Engineering Activities

Eleven technical committees, listed below, held meetings in Washington, during the 75th Convention, May 3-7, 1954. The minutes of these meetings are now being prepared for Committee circulation and copies will be made available to other interested parties upon written request. The highlights of these meetings will be reported in the next issue of the *Journal*.

Color

Film Dimensions

Film-Projection Practice

High-Speed Photography

Laboratory Practice

Screen Brightness

16 & 8mm

Sound

Magnetic Recording Subcommittee

Television

Television Studio Lighting

As reported in the April 1954 *Journal*, the Engineering Committee Manual, describing committee procedures, processing of American Standards and the overall engineering operations, is now off the press. Copies have been distributed to all the technical committees and are also available upon request.—Henry Kogel, Staff Engineer.

Board of Governors Meeting

At the May 2 meeting, the Board thoroughly reviewed current policies and plans, especially in relation to these critical financial times for the Society. After discussion about the costs for services which the Society renders, decisions taken at the January Board Meeting (see details in the April *Journal*) were reaffirmed by a heavy majority. This bore particularly on the matter of advertising in the *Journal*, plans for which are to continue as announced in the April issue. Aside from offering advertising, the Board considered such revenue-raising measures as increasing membership fees.

Convention plans firmly adopted include the 76th to be at the Los Angeles Ambassador Hotel, October 18-22, 1954, the program to feature color and to include a motion-picture and television equipment exhibit; the 77th at the Hotel Drake in Chicago, April 18-22, 1955; and the 78th at the Lake Placid Club, October 3-7, 1955.

Revision of the Society's Administrative Practices, under consideration for some time, was reported due for completion this year.

New Address

Late this month the Society's headquarters will be moved to 55 West 42nd St., New York 36, N.Y. The telephone number will not be changed. The American Radiator and Standard Plumbing Co., owner of the 40 West 40th St. building, is converting it to sole use by its own staff. The Society has been able to relocate at a more economical rental with substantially the same amount of space and in the same neighborhood which is convenient for travel, business and library facilities.

The New Journal

Beginning with the July issue the *Journal* will have a new format with the trim size increased to $8\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ in. and the number of columns three to the page. The column widths and the basic typeface will be the same as in this issue. Binding will be by

saddle wiring, the simplest way of binding, which will be particularly welcomed in view of difficulties with the May issue which was delayed a full week in binding after it was printed on schedule.

Advertising will be published in the new *Journal*. The New Members column will be resumed in July. Otherwise the substance and the policies of the *Journal* remain unchanged.—V.A.

Obituary



Fred Waller died on May 18 at his home at Huntington, L. I., at the age of 68.

He left Polytechnic School in Brooklyn at the age of 14 and went to work in his father's photographic studio. He entered the motion-picture field in 1905 as a lobby display creator. In 1918 he was operating a photo illustrating studio in New York and branched out to photographic title illustrations for silent movies. Famous Players-Lasky Corp., later Paramount, gave Waller the job of doing exclusive title illustrations. In 1922 he was one of the founders of the Film Guild, Inc., an independent motion-picture company which produced five features and three three-reel historical films. These were dramatically successful and financially a loss.

In 1925 he rejoined Paramount as head of the special effects department. When

Paramount closed its Eastern studio, Waller became partner in a sales agency for motor boats, William H. Young & Company. Soon he had invented and produced the first water skis and personally tested them. From 1929 through 1936 he was with Paramount again to produce and direct 235 one-reel short subjects.

By 1937 he was interested in the New York World's Fair. He designed the successful projection method for the inside of the Perisphere and he planned and executed the Hall of Color demonstration for the Eastman Kodak Co. At this time he was building his first model for the Cinerama process but he failed to sell it to World's Fair exhibitors who considered it too radical. Out of this came the Waller Gunnery Trainer which used five combat films projected on a hemispherical screen to train aerial gunners in simulated combat conditions. The trainer was credited by the Air Force as averting 350,000 casualties in training and combat.

At the end of World War II, Waller opened a small research laboratory in Huntington, L.I., where he designed and built analyzing apparatus for the Air Force to determine the behavior of bullets fired from fast-moving airplanes. In 1946 he began the construction of the present Cinerama demonstration in Oyster Bay which was first shown operating in 1948. Since 1946 Waller had worked with Hazard Reeves, President of Reeves Soundcraft Corp., to develop stereo sound to accompany the Cinerama picture.

This Is Cinerama, which opened in New York nearly three years ago, has been a continuous success. There are now installations and exhibitions in 10 other cities. Although his gunnery trainer and Cinerama were the most important type among his inventions, in addition to water skis and a photographic measurer of a man for a suit of clothes, he had many other inventions including an automatic photographic timer, a 360° camera and a wind velocity indicator. He was a Fellow of this Society and was the recipient of the Society's Progress Medal last year. Regrettably, he was unable to attend the Pioneers' Dinner during the recent Convention, at which he was one of 26 pioneers honored as having been active since the early years of the Society.