

James L. Wassell, Chairman of the Society's Central Section, was recently appointed Coordinator of a new department called the Professional Equipment and Instrument Division set up by Bell & Howell in Skokie, Ill., according to an announcement by George L. Oakley, manager of the division.

Wassell formerly was with Ansco where since 1949 he was midwest sales manager of the company's professional motion-picture division.

The new division at Bell & Howell is a further extension of the company's policy of developing and coordinating its efforts in designing new, specialized equipment for the professional and engineering fields. The number of sales and engineering personnel in this work has been quadrupled. This activity was formerly divided among the Bell & Howell engineering, manufacturing and merchandising divisions.

A special group will work on projects not suitable for the production line, and the division will concentrate heavily on research in the electronics field. Increased effort will be given to film printers and other equipment that the company pioneered for the motion-picture industry. Special research will be aimed at developing equipment to help film laboratories "automate" their operations.

Two other appointments have recently been announced, these by Malcolm G. Townsley, Vice President of Engineering: **John G. Heiland**, who was formerly Associate Director of research while Mr. Townsley was also serving as Director of Research, has been made Director of Research. **Gerhard Lessman**, formerly a special project engineer, has been made Associate Director of Research.



books reviewed

How to Do Home Movie Tricks

By Julien Caunter. Published (1955) by Focal Press Ltd., London; available in U.S. from American Photographic Book Publishing Co., 33 W. 60 St., New York 23. 176 pp. 5 × 7½ in. Price \$1.75.

This compact little book brings a wealth of ideas and information to the student and amateur cine filmer. The professional will not find anything in it that he does not already know since all the tricks suggested are very simple in themselves or based upon the most elementary principles. Simple language and clear linecuts combine to inspire the amateur to look upon his camera with new interest and respect. Although the trick work described is primarily designed to amuse the filmer and his audience, it will undoubtedly provoke serious thought among students. The more serious application of these methods will permit many a random motion-picture enthusiast to become a serious worker in the field. The judicious use of the trick filming methods coupled with imagination and good taste will increase the value of films that would otherwise be very ordinary.

The chapter on varying camera speeds gives an unusually clear statement of the facts. Stop motion and animation come in for a very condensed but nonetheless informative pair of chapters which are well worth reading. Masks and before the lens effects are described in detail. All through the book there are very helpful general hints which apply to all types of filming and camera handling. Parallax errors in titling are adequately covered. A short chapter on editing, although not strictly keeping to the subject, has some hints worth considering.

The book as a whole makes a valiant attempt to cover a vast area of photography in a small amount of space. It succeeds in this without getting the reader involved in overly technical discussions.

The chapters devoted to animation and spot motion bring out some interesting and useful facts, but because of space limitations only the high spots are touched upon.

The glossary must be used with care because of the disparity between British and American nomenclature in some cases.

The fact that this book is too elementary to be of any use to the professional cinematographer does not lessen its value and importance to the student and amateur. It will find a welcome spot in the library of these last two, and is technically accurate, complete and full of useful information

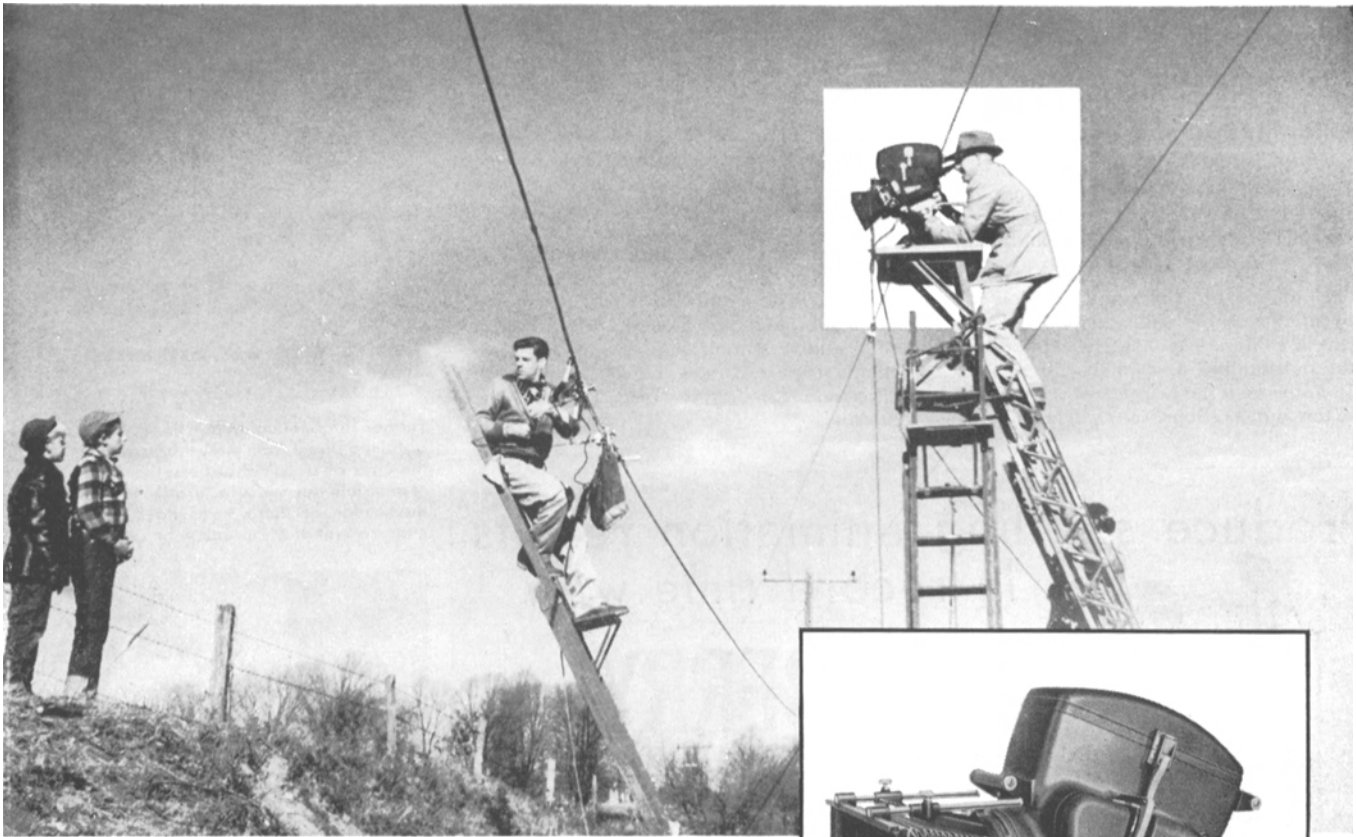
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Why SOUND MASTERS Selected ...
 The **ARRIFLEX 35** Model IIA
 To Shoot *'Speechless By Mistake'* for the Bell System

The Bell System wanted a color film that would help prevent accidental damage to buried and aerial telephone cables by dramatizing some of the common causes of such damage and their effect on vital communications. SOUND MASTERS of New York was selected to make the film.

The script called for 'on location' filming — in fields, on highways, in ditches, on 'Main Street'. More than 95% of the film required live, lip-synchronized sound. A versatile, easily maneuverable camera was needed for this job.

SOUND MASTERS selected the Arriflex 35 Model IIA with Synchronous Motor and Sound-Proof Blimp — and filmed all the sequences with this equipment within a period of five weeks. *Speechless By Mistake* has been completed and will soon be released by the local Bell Telephone Companies for public showings.

Says Mr. F. C. Wood, Jr. vice president in charge of production, "We acquired and used the Arriflex outfit

because it was the lightest, most compact equipment we could find. It would have been next to impossible to have done the job so quickly and easily with any other camera. The Blimp was perfect both indoors and out.

"Needless to say, we were pleased with the results, as was also the client. The pictures were rock steady and needle sharp — thanks to the new film gate and intermittent, and to those wonderful Schneider lenses. The whole film was a complete success.

"The most wonderful thing about the whole deal is that the price of the complete outfit was hardly more than what it would have cost us to rent other equipment."

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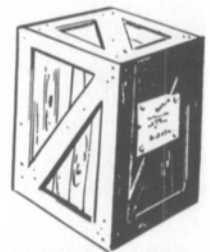
which is conveniently arranged.—*E. M. Pittaro*, Consultant, 137-65 70 Ave., Flushing 67, N.Y.

Leica Manual and Data Book

By Willard D. Morgan and Henry M. Lester. Published (1955) by Morgan & Lester, 101 Park Ave., New York 17. 456 pp. incl. illustrations, graphs and tables. 5½ × 8¼ in. Price \$6.00.

Now in its thirteenth edition and twentieth year of publication, this perennial classic continues to hold its reputation as the outstanding work in its limited field. Its audience is the Leica camera owner, and to this audience it presents a detailed factual

account of the camera and its proprietary equipment. The present edition has been extensively revised and rewritten. It includes exposure and filter data for such recent film stocks as Adox, Anscochrome and the new Ektachrome. Tables and formulas from many separate sources are now conveniently grouped together in a 57-page appendix. Previous conflicts in statements of flash exposure figures have apparently been resolved by the editors, and the tables which they now present are warranted to be reliable. The editors have performed well and faithfully their task of presenting an informative volume, undiluted by inspirational copy.—*Bernard D. Plakun*, General Precision Laboratory Inc., Pleasantville, N.Y.

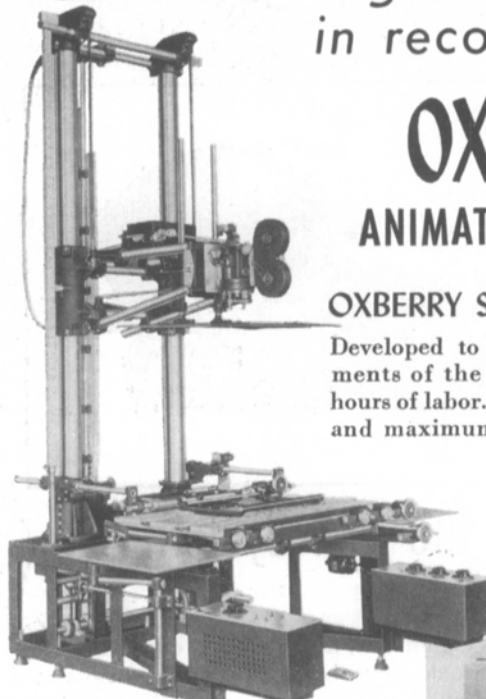


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Further information about these items can be obtained direct from the addresses given. As in the case of technical papers, the Society is not responsible for manufacturers' statements, and publication of these items does not constitute endorsement of the products or services.

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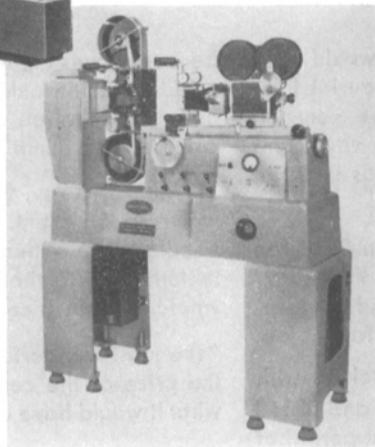
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Two six-channel stereophonic production recording systems were specially designed by Westrex Corp. for the Todd-AO production of *Oklahoma*. These systems consisted of mixer input facilities capable of accommodating six stereophonic microphone inputs, a six-channel RA-1547 Recorder and associated power supply equipment. Both were mounted in van-type mobile units containing their own power supplies.

A special stage at M-G-M Studios was completely equipped to do the re-recording work necessary on *Oklahoma*, including a special console capable of accepting 96 separate input circuits. Arrangements were made so that circuits could be handled separately or grouped under controls so that each separate film containing six magnetic sound-tracks in a stereophonic relation could be controlled with one attenuator. The main console is over 20 ft long and can be operated by a five-man crew. All necessary equalizers, auxiliary volume indicators and associated equipment are included in the main console.

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