

Report on Lake Placid Convention

The 78th convention proved highly successful, surpassing all expectations. Total attendance was about 450, compared with the 218 who attended the last Lake Placid convention in 1950. Member weekly registration totalled 236; member daily registration, 31; ladies registration, 125; and nonmember registration, 58. One-hundred and five members and 61 ladies took advantage of the time-saving method of advance registration initiated at the 77th Convention in Chicago last Spring.

The 78th papers program featured the theme "Color in Motion Pictures and Television." Organized by Glenn Matthews, it consisted of 57 technical papers, divided into 12 sessions on materials and standards, studio practice, projection and viewing, laboratory practice, television practice, high-speed photography, educational TV and television equipment, and television and sound.

To distribute the burden of detail work and permit more careful review of proposed papers, Glenn was assisted by Gordon Chambers, in charge of the Laboratory Practice sessions; John Stott, who coordinated papers on Materials and Standards; Charles Daily, in charge of Projection and Viewing sessions; Fred Kolb, coordinator for the roundtable on Projection for the Large Screen; Gentry Veal, in charge of the Television Practice Sessions; Petro Vlahos, in charge of the Studio Practice session; and John Waddell, in charge of the High-Speed Photography sessions.

The technical papers included two from Tokyo, two from Germany and three from Canada. For the first time, a small session was arranged on educational television with the purpose of acquainting our members with activities in this rapidly growing field.

An innovation on the technical program was three roundtable discussions on important subjects of high current interest to the motion-picture and television industries—Motion-Picture Studio Production Problems; Projection for the Wide Screen; and Problems of Network Broadcasting in Monochrome and Color. Each of the roundtables consisted of a panel of four or more experts who presented their views on the subject under discussion and then answered a lively barrage of questions from the floor. Chairmen of the panel discussions were Norwood Simmons, Fred Kolb and Gentry Veal.

The complete roster of papers as finally presented will appear in the December *Journal*. The high quality of the technical sessions will be reflected in forthcoming *Journals* when the papers and discussions which followed them are published.

Credit for the quality and smoothness of the convention is due Byron Roudabush, Convention Vice-President, Don Hyndman, Local Arrangements Chairman, and their able team of committee chairmen. All did an excellent job despite the fact that advance arrangements had to be handled at a distance from Lake Placid.

The difficult and demanding job of registration was directed by Jim Naughton, who was assisted by Bill Westphal in the

auditing department, and Marie Lucas. Even the lengthy lines that formed early Monday morning didn't ruffle the calm of this able group, which handled their tasks smoothly and efficiently.

Hotel Arrangements were the province of Lou Feldman, who handled these tasks with dispatch and even found time to be of assistance in other areas.

Another man of all work was Administrative Assistant Bill Metzger who willingly lent a hand wherever needed.

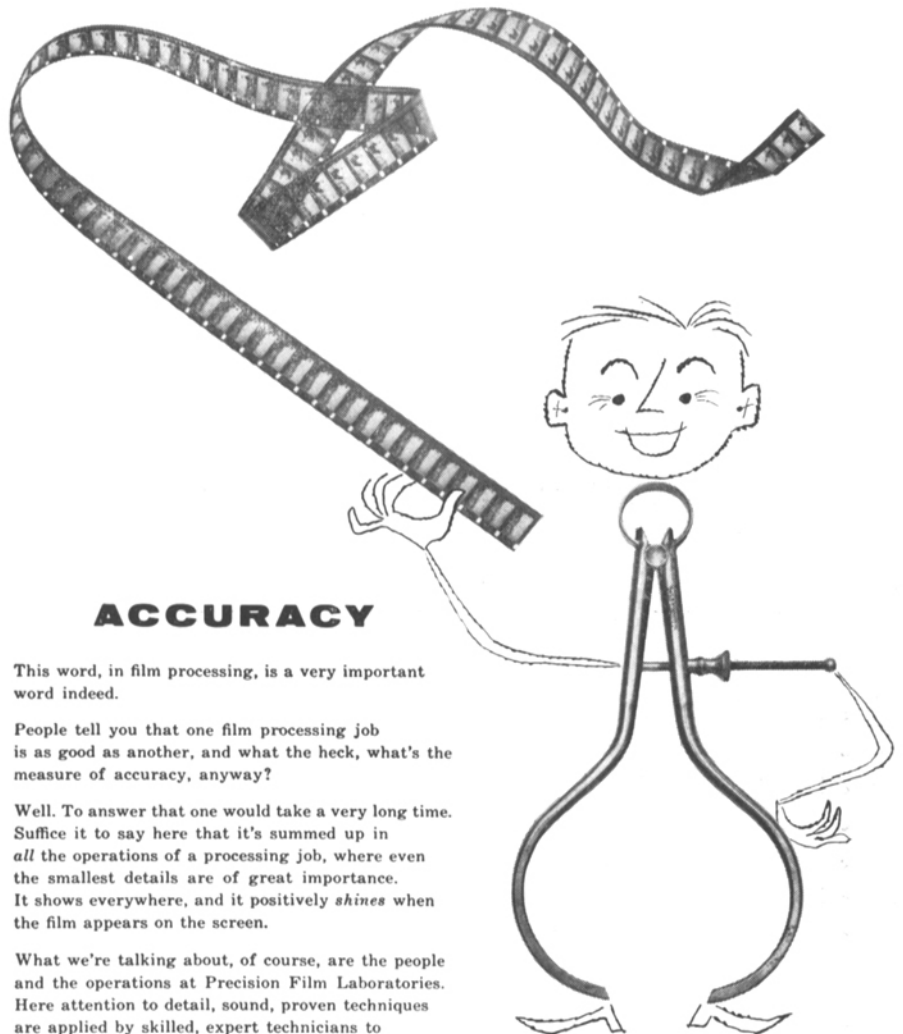
The cordial dispenser of hospitality, and general information about local tourist attractions, was Gar Misener. His Hospitality Desk and the neighboring Membership Desk manned by Joe Aiken provided daily service to convention registrants.

Joe snared six new Society members and did a thriving business in membership pins as well.

The complex projection chores were directed by Bill Hecht and Jim Moses; and activities in the public address and recording departments were the responsibility of Jack Leahy. For their virtually twenty-four hour a day jobs, they deserve special thanks.

Up-to-the-minute printed word of what was transpiring went to the outside world via the typewriter of Sue Grotta, who handled publicity.

For the extensive and enjoyable entertainment program in which everyone readily took part, thanks are due to Reid Ray, Entertainment Chairman, Earl Spon-



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able and Frank Cahill. Their program was unusual and original, and its informality provided excellent opportunities for members to get to know each other better. Golf activities were handled by Bunny Hanson.

Last but certainly not least were the ladies. Their committee was headed by Oscar Neu with Mrs. Hyndman and Mrs. Sponable serving ably and graciously as cohostesses.

The Annual Awards session, the full text of which will appear in the December *Journal*, was arranged and directed by John Stott. Through his efforts the program was interesting and dignified, in keeping with the importance of this annual occasion at which the Society formally recognizes

the technical accomplishments of members of the industry. John also served as Chairman of the Banquet Committee.

The "Camera Trails Along Nature Trails" illustrated lecture by Dick and Ada Bird was one of the more rewarding and interesting experiences of the convention. In addition to the excellent color motion pictures of bird and small animal life in the United States and Canada, those attending were charmed by the dry wit and humor of Mr. Bird's interesting account of his experiences.

Bird, a former newsreel cameraman of nearly 50 years experience, and Ada, his pretty brunette wife and assistant photographer, have worked in a remote area of the Canadian Rockies several months each

summer for five years making shots for the Disney picture *Arctic Wilderness*, scheduled for release in 1956. Each of these intrepid photographers has infinite patience, insatiable curiosity to search out their quarry, and great skill to record the scene and action on Kodachrome film.

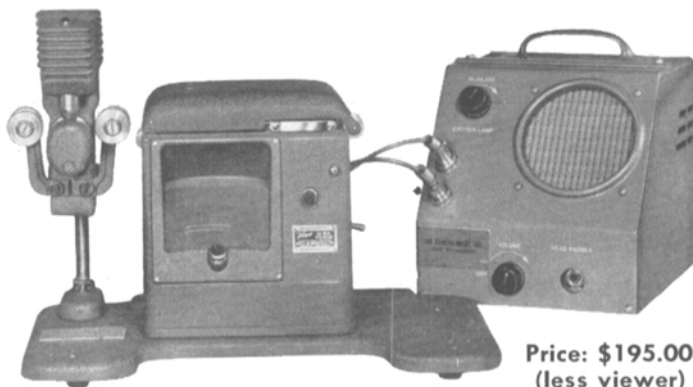
The Birds use only their original color film for their lectures and many who saw their motion pictures expressed amazement at the freedom from scratches and dirt of the film. They were even more impressed when Dick told them after the lecture that some of the sequences of this film had been projected more than 1000 times. Ada always rewinds and wipes the film after each showing and maintains the projector in first-class condition.

In addition to showing their pictures to groups all over this country and Canada, these two nature photographers preach conservation at every opportunity, pointing out that the birds destroy countless insects that would otherwise do considerable damage to crops.

When working in the field, most of their shots are made without the use of blinds by remaining long hours in the area until the bird or animal they want to photograph becomes accustomed to them. Dick dislikes rehearsed shots and prefers to photograph nature as he finds it.

During the convention 12 engineering committee meetings were held. There were also the 79th Convention Papers Meeting and the meetings for 79th and 80th Convention Arrangements. S.G.

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Society Election

The 1955 national SMPTE election ballots were counted on October 2, and the results of the election were reported to the membership at the Annual Meeting held on October 3 during the 78th semiannual convention at the Lake Placid Club, Essex County, N.Y. The following national officers and governors were re-elected for two-year terms beginning January 1, 1956: John W. Servies, Financial Vice-President Axel G. Jensen, Engineering Vice-President Geo. W. Colburn, Treasurer Frank N. Gillette, Governor, East Garland C. Misener, Governor, East Richard O. Painter, Governor, Central Reid H. Ray, Governor, Central Lorin D. Grignon, Governor, West Ralph E. Lovell, Governor, West

President Frayne announced that the Board of Governors had accepted with regret the resignation of Secretary Edward S. Seeley whose move to the West Coast and new duties were described in the September *Journal*. Wilton R. Holm was appointed to fill the remainder of the Secretary's term, through December 31, 1956.

The following section officers and managers were elected — the Chairmen and Secretary-Treasurers for one-year terms, the Managers for two. By virtue of their offices the three section chairmen also serve one-year terms as Society Governors.

Atlantic Coast Section

George H. Gordon, Chairman
Victor M. Salter, Secretary-Treasurer
Albert A. Duryea, Manager
Robert M. Fraser, Manager