Continued from Front Cover.

ture films, lantern slide matte opening, thumb mark, and lantern strip.

From the very beginning, the Society has provided vital engineering support in the establishment of motion-picture and television standards. Although representatives of the Society had been in contact with European standards organization since about 1920, there was no close cooperation until about 1950. Deane White (SMPTE President 1969-70) was the first Chairman of the USA delegation to TC 36 and in 1970 the Society assumed the Secretariat of TC 36. The Society's Test Films serve laboratories, manufacturers and motion-picture and television technicians throughout the world.

The Society, as we all know, was founded as the Society of Motion Picture Engineers. In 1916 television was no more than a gleam in C. Francis Jenkins's eye. (As early as 1921 he had set up a research laboratory to work on optics, radio, picture transmission and television.) By 1950, however, television was no longer a rather dubious novelty but had become a young giant so closely entwined with the art and science of motion pictures that the Society took the logical step of changing its name. Therefore, in 1950 the SMPE became the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers.

Other revolutionary advances with which the Society became closely involved included sound and color. Although a process of color cinematography called Kinemacolor had been patented in 1906 by G. A. Smith, motion pictures in color were something of a fairly uninteresting novelty until about the time of World War II. Earlier, Technicolor and Eastman Kodak, among others, were developing color processes to the near perfect reproduction of color taken for granted today.

Sound in motion pictures has also had a long history, beginning in 1887 when Thomas A. Edison tried to combine a phonography with his "peep show" moving picture; however, the "silent" motion picture proved to be entertainment enough for the motion-picture audiences until 6 October 1927 when Al Jolson in *The Jazz Singer* said, "Come on, Ma, listen to this," and the talkies were born. Contrary to the impression of many moviegoers of that time (and later) the "talkies" were no overnight success. The time, effort, talent, dedication and sheer hard work of not one, but many, sound engineers and inventors over the years to develop and perfect sound on film will probably never be fully appreciated.

During World War II, the Society's resources were directed toward the service of the country and, out of the necessities of that time, new techniques in cinematography and photoinstrumentation were developed. A paper in the February 1944 issue of the *Journal* by W. R. McGee, entitled "Cinematography Goes to War," noted that "special commands of the Motion Picture Unit [of the U.S. Air Force] are now operating at every front in every theater of war, . . . Theirs is the task of recording on film any and all things that will (1) aid in saving the lives of our men; (2) expose any and all weaknesses in our planes and machines so that these can be corrected; and (3) reveal the enemy's war machines so that we may learn his secret tactics." The training film program was also a vital part of the national war effort.

The Society has always encouraged young people who hope for careers in motion pictures and television. There are, at this time, thirteen student chapters in colleges and universities. The SMPTE is active in obtaining support for scholarships and for some time has administered grants for both undergraduate and graduate scholarships. The latter is administered for the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Many honors have come to the Society. In 1958 it received an Oscar presented at the Motion Picture Academy Awards Ceremonies on 26 March. On 19 May 1975, the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences presented a citation to the SMPTE in recognition of its sponsorship of the Videotape Time and Control Code which has become a basic element in television broadcasting technology.

Other outstanding contributions to television technology made by the Society include a report to the Federal Communications Commission on ancillary signals compiled by an Ad Hoc Committee of the SMPTE functioning under the Joint Committee on Inter-Society Coordination.

SMPTE was originally located in Washington, D.C. It moved to New York City in 1930 and occupied various offices including ones at the Statler Hilton Hotel and at 9 East 41st Street. In 1972 SMPTE purchased its own building in Scarsdale, New York. In addition to an executive director, SMPTE employs 24 fine people.

There have been many outstanding men who served as President of the SMPTE. There are too many to name tham all, but I think of Alfred Goldsmith of RCA, one of the founders of television, as an example. These men, now 30 in number, were talented, dedicated and perceptive. They were, in large measure, responsible for the progress the Society has made — in technology, financial stability and industry leadership. It is an honor for me to be among this company, and it is on behalf of all SMPE and SMPTE Presidents that I greet you today.

Kenneth M. Mason, *President*
June 16, 1976

Editor's Foreword

After the decision was made by the Editorial Vice-President to publish a special issue of the *Journal* to commemorate the Society's 60th Anniversary, the task of putting it together was assigned to the Archival Papers and Historical Committee.

Many suggestions were made regarding the format and content of the issue and at this time I would like to thank all of those who contributed their time and ideas. The suggestions were reviewed by the Committee and a format was decided upon which would include the reprinting of some portions of previous *Journal* articles and the preparation of new articles of an historical nature concerning the major areas of interest to the Society.

The new articles are invited papers prepared by individuals or groups who, in the opinion of the Committee, have shown an expertise in the area they are discussing. In writing their papers, the authors were asked to discuss the pioneering and/or engineering activities of the Society in their areas of interest. Although it was realized that any of the topics covered could have been the subject of a complete book, the number of pages were limited because of the *Journal* space available. At one point during the planning stage of this issue, a bibliography of significant papers was considered. It soon became evident that to complete such a bibliography would also be beyond the scope of a single issue.

Condensation inevitably leads to omissions. Therefore, some readers will disagree with the authors in the approach they have taken to their subjects. As chairman of the Committee, I believe we have produced a valid summary of the Society's activity and growth during the past 60 years. Once again, I would like to thank all of the people who contributed to its preparation.

RODERICK T. RYAN, *Chairman*
Archival Papers and Historical Committee