

Report on the SMPTE Chicago Section's Third Annual Chairman's Reception and Banquet

By BYRON L. FRIEND

The SMPTE Chicago Section continues to provide effective leadership in the mid-western audiovisual community with its many activities during the year, culminating in the Midwinter Symposium/Chairman's Reception and Awards Banquet.

This year's prestigious event was held on Saturday evening, 2 December, in the new Penthouse Ballroom, high atop the Ramada-O'Hare Inn, overlooking the nighttime activity of O'Hare Field, the world's busiest airport.

This is the annual occasion at which members and guests of the Section gather to recognize those past chairmen who have given so freely of their time and talent so that the Section might continue to grow and prosper. On this special evening, all past chairmen and their wives are the dinner guests of the Chicago Section.

Since 1952, the Chicago Section has had 15 past chairmen. Of these, 10 were in attendance. Those in attendance and the years they served as chairman are listed as follows:

C. E. Heppberger, 1952-1953; William H. Smith, 1960-1961; Philip E. Smith, 1962; Harold Kinzle, 1963-1964; Jack Behrend, 1965-1966; Al Hilliard, 1967-1968; Chuck Zichterman, 1971-1972; Matt Herman, 1973-1974; By Friend, 1975-1976; and Ed Blasko, 1977-1978.

Forced to make last minute cancellations as the weather deteriorated and snow and ice accumulated on the runways were James Wassell, 1954-1955; Kenneth M. Mason, 1956-1957; and Jerry Diebold, 1959. Howard Brauer, 1958, of California, and Denis H. G. Howe, 1969-1970, of Texas, regrettably were unable to attend this year's reception.

Former chairmen, governors, and section managers look forward to renewing old acquaintances at this annual get-together. This year 23 former governors and 52 past section managers from Florida, Wisconsin, Michigan, California, New York, Colorado, Missouri, Arizona, Indiana, Iowa, and Ohio were invited to participate. Despite the weather, 250 SMPTE members and guests, the largest number ever to participate, attended this year's black-tie-optional event.

Preceding the evening's program, mem-

bers of the Biological Photographic Association and the Society of Broadcast Engineers joined with SMPTE members and guests from many segments of these industries for cocktails.

Two prominent speakers highlighted the symposium and presented "papers" of considerable entertainment and interest.

Past Chairman Chuck Zichterman made an unusual and impressive presentation, which included a variation on the theme of Lincoln's Gettysburg address. This opening speech did much to set the stage for the entire evening:

"Three score and two years ago, our founding fathers brought forth upon a fledgling industry a new organization conceived in desperation and dedicated to the proposition that standards should be initiated, recommended practices be promulgated, and items of current importance and immediate concern be communicated to its membership. . . ."

Past Chairman Jack Behrend presented an original "paper" entitled, "Electronic Signal Reduction for Audio" or "ERA-Mark I."

Mr. Behrend also discussed briefly the preliminary design concept for an advanced model "ERA-Mark II," which makes big-screen television practical for the first time. This device seeks to capture the great energy and creativity inherent in the television medium without the annoying worry of pictures and sound. This paper was amply illustrated by slides and elicited thunderous applause and roars of laughter.

Following the usual steak dinner, which is a long-standing tradition of the Section, 26 awards were presented to fifteen recipients by Section Chairman Ed Blasko.

The awards presentation ceremony, ob-

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SMPTE Chicago Section 1978 Awards recipients.



Chicago Section Past Chairmen. Back row, left to right: C. E. Heppberger, Jack Behrend, Ed Blasko, Matt Herman, Chuck Zichterman and Al Hilliard. Front row, left to right: By Friend, Phil Smith, Bill Smith and Harold Kinzle.

served annually at the SMPTE Chicago Section Midwinter Symposium, seeks to honor those individuals, members, and nonmembers who have contributed to the success of the Section during the past year.

Receiving awards at this year's ceremony were: Mike Bailey, Ed Blasko, Jack Behrend, Bob Churchill, Richard Cornell, John Ehrenberg, By Friend, George Halonen, Matt Herman, Roland Johnson, Henry Kakehashi, Paul Markun, Toni Roth, Norm Thelen, and Chuck Zichterman.

Outgoing Section Chairman Ed Blasko also introduced the incoming officers and

managers: George Halonen, Chairman; Mike Bailey, Secretary-Treasurer; Managers: Ken Knaus, Paul Markun, and Henry Kakehashi.

Entertainment was provided by pres-digidigator Howard Paul, whose presentation was designed to deal with the various aspects of the perception mechanism as affected by contemporary lifestyles. Attendees were further treated to a most unusual lighting display as lightning played across the heavens amidst the December snow and rain.

The evening concluded when those attending were urged to dance or listen to the

big-band sound of the Musicmakers, 17 musicians under the baton of Ray Dickow.

The attendees again benefited from the Planning Committee's wealth of experience in the overall planning and implementation of the evening's activities. Unique to the Chicago Section, this was the third such event produced by the committee.

Byron L. Friend of Telecine Film Studios, Inc., was Event Chairman and was also responsible for table sales. Matt Herman of George W. Colburn Laboratory, Inc., was Arrangements Chairman. His coordination of the many details involved in the activity was indeed valuable.

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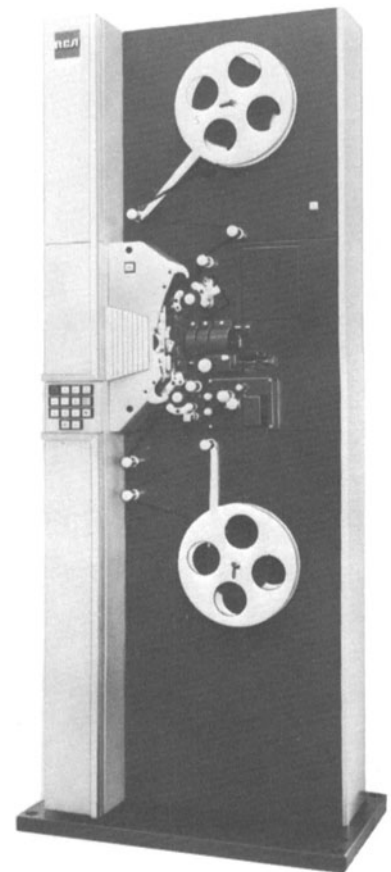
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Past Chairman and Mrs. Harold Kinzle, Past Chairman C. E. Heppberger and Mrs. Jack Behrend.



Left to right: Carol Stitzer, Governor John Ehrenberg and Past Chairman Ed Blasko.



Bill Owens (left) with Matt Herman, Arrangements Chairman (right).

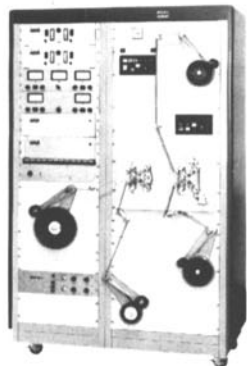
Chuck Zichter of Peterson Enterprises, Inc., was Program Chairman and put together an outstanding educational and entertaining program. Paul Markun of Sharpe/Markun again did a superb job on promotion and publicity.

Toni Roth of Image Transform and Mike Bailey of Allied Film Laboratory, Inc., most capably handled table assignments and reception duties. Each past chairman was pinned with a red carnation and his wife was presented with a lovely orchid corsage.

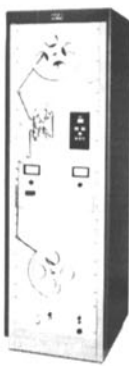
Roland Johnson of Eastman Kodak Co. handled advance reservations and accounting. All contributed generously of their time and energy to the planning and fruition of the hour-to-hour activities involved in producing the event.

Plans are already under way for the 1979 event to be held Saturday evening, 1 December 1979.

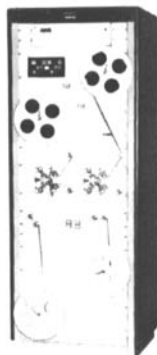
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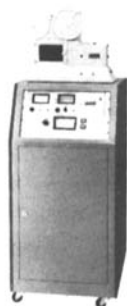
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