

Industry News & Educational Activities

SMPTE Training Program for Section Chairmen

The first SMPTE Training Seminar for Section Chairmen was held 5-7 October 1979 in Chicago for the newly elected Section Chairmen. The Training Seminar was established as part of a long-range program to strengthen the influence of the SMPTE and "to provide increased benefits to our members by strengthening the activities of the local section," as stated by President Robert M. Smith. The influence of the SMPTE permeates the entire industry and, through stronger and more vital local sections, will become more efficient and more meaningful, he said.

Sections Vice-President, Leonard F. Coleman, was given authority by the Board of Governors to initiate the Seminar.

Present at the Seminar were: Robert M. Smith, SMPTE President; William D. Hedden, Past President; Charles E. Anderson, Executive Vice-President; Joseph A. Flaherty, Financial Vice-President; Roland J. Zavada, Engineering Vice-President; Leonard F. Coleman, Sections Vice-President; Harold J. Eady, Secretary; and Charles A. Ahto, Treasurer. Also present were four members of the Headquarters Staff — Donald Breidt, Executive Director; Lynne Robinson, Secretary to the Executive Director; Alex E. Alden, Manager of Engineering Services; and David A. Howell, Editor of the *SMPTE Journal*.

Section Chairmen present were: R. T. Turnbull, Atlanta; G. E. Halonen, Chicago;

Michael Lorfing, Dallas/Fort Worth; S. H. Becker, Detroit; L. V. Klitin, Florida/Caribbean; H. T. LaZare, Hollywood; Grant Dearnaley, Montreal/Ottawa/Quebec; J. W. Caluger, Nashville; W. L. Cooper, New York; A. E. Florack, Ohio; S. D. Kerman, Pacific/Northwest; E. B. Maguire, Philadelphia; D. C. German, Rochester; S. J. Grazi, Rocky Mountain; D. K. Fibush, San Francisco; H. H. Berger, Toronto; and H. L. Vincent, Washington, D.C. John Barry, Australia; Harris Milam, Houston; and J. F. Olsen, New England, were unable to attend.

Program

The Seminar began in the evening of 5 October with a reception followed by a dinner. The main part of the Seminar took place 6 October beginning with a welcoming address by President Smith followed by a rundown by Sections Vice-President Coleman on the details of the coming program and its purposes. President Smith then spoke on "Our Society" explaining the structure, history, and purposes of the SMPTE.

Donald Breidt, Executive Director, then spoke on the "Bylaws and Administrative Practices of the Society," followed by a talk by Sections Vice-President Coleman on "Section Organization, Student Chapters, and Local Operation."

Lynne Robinson, Secretary to the Executive Director and Conference Secretary, spoke on "SMPTE Elections." Stressing the importance of the elections to the membership

as a whole, Ms. Robinson urged that better lines of communication be established and that Section members be encouraged to become more involved in the activities of their Sections. She explained the aims and procedures of the Society's elections and discussed the responsibilities and privileges of membership in the SMPTE. The international prestige of the SMPTE reflects on its members, she noted, and, as the Society continues to grow, it becomes of increasing importance that close communication with all its members be maintained through its Sections.

Following Ms. Robinson's talk, Coleman discussed local program planning giving a few guidelines and suggestions. Executive Vice-President Anderson discussed the importance of special conferences and mini-conventions and Breidt discussed Section Reports pointing out their importance not only to members of the particular Section but to all of the Society's members.

In the afternoon of the 6th the theme of the program was "What Headquarters and SMPTE Officers Can Do for You." Each officer told of his responsibilities and explained the many ways in which he served the Society and its members.

SMPTE Officers — Responsibilities and Services

President Robert M. Smith is the executive head of the Society having overall responsibility for the policies and procedures of the Society, subject to the direction of the Board of Governors and the wishes of the membership. For example, he explained, any proposed changes in the Bylaws must have the approval of the Board of Governors. If approved, a letter ballot is mailed to all the members. The main purposes of the Society, he said, since its founding in 1916, are to advance the theory and practice of engineering within the scope of the Society and to provide service to its members. Each officer of the Society, he noted, has his own area of responsibility, and each officer is dedicated to



Informal discussions of Sections' activities took place at the dinner table.

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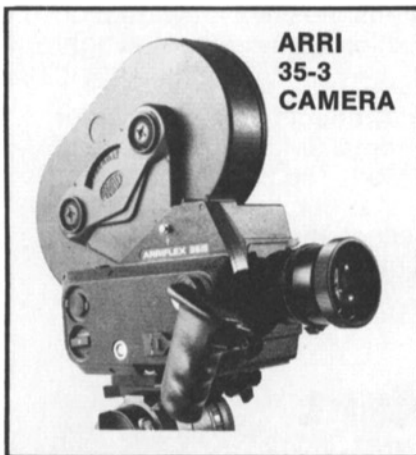
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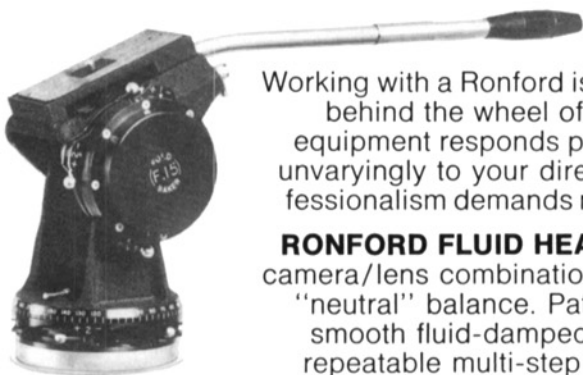


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Sections Vice-President Leonard Coleman at the final wrap-up.

promoting the good of the Society as a whole and maintaining lines of communication with each member.

Executive Vice-President Charles E. Anderson said that in addition to being a "stand-in" for the President, as provided for in the Constitution, he had specific duties and responsibilities to the membership and less tangible ones, such as promoting the interests of the Society at all times and thus attracting new members.

Both Smith and Anderson emphasized the importance of maintaining a close relationship among officers and members of the Society through Section activities as well as through conferences and special meetings.

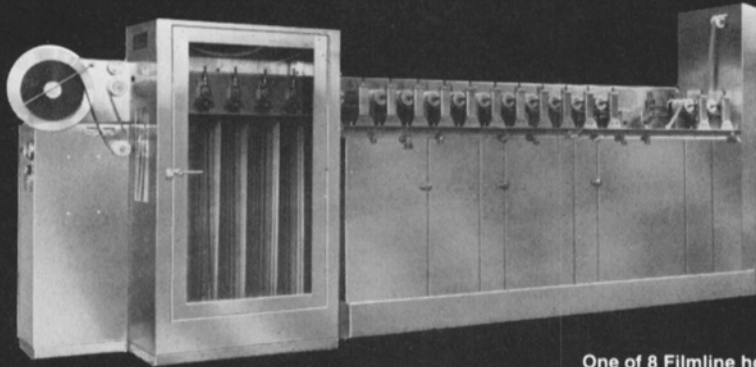
Financial Vice-President Joseph A. Flaherty explained that he has the responsibility of budgeting the Society's finances and of making sure that any outlay of funds would be, in the last analysis, beneficial to all its members. At the end of each fiscal year, he noted, his books are audited by a CPA selected by the Board of Governors, and a report of the audit is mailed to each member of the Society.

Engineering Vice-President Roland Zavada explained that according to the SMPTE Constitution the Engineering Vice-President is responsible for the supervision and coordination of the work of all technical committees of the Society and, when authorized to do so by the Board of Governors, may appoint committees, define their scope, and designate the members. Zavada admitted that this was a heavy responsibility involving a great deal of work, but he recognized that with the help of the Standardization Committee and other engineering committees a great deal has been accomplished in the area of standardization to the ultimate benefit of Society members as well as to all who are engaged in the motion-picture and television industry.

Secretary Harold Eady whose duties consist of keeping a record of all meetings of the Society and maintaining a membership roster, announced a change in the Bylaws to provide that Sections of the Society may be authorized in any locality where the number of members of Associate grade and above exceeds 50. This is a change from the requirement that a new Section could be formed in any locality where the number of members of the Active grade exceeded 20.

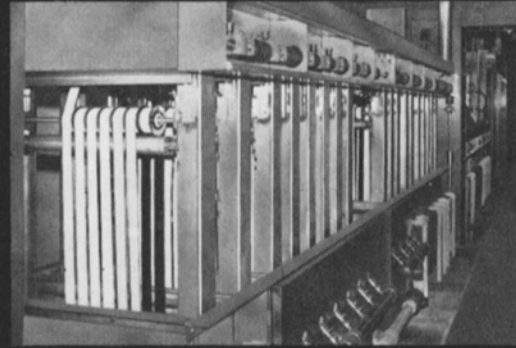


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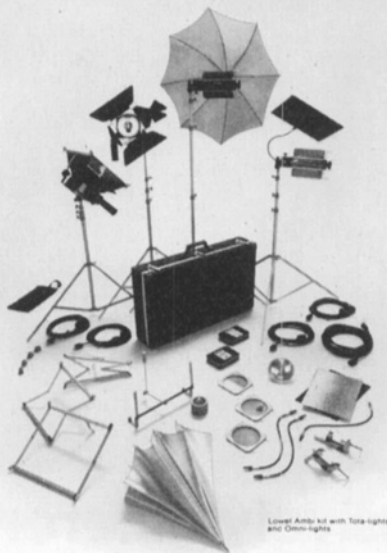


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SMPTE officers, staff members, and Section Chairmen at the Training Seminar.

Charles Ahto, SMPTE Treasurer, briefly explained the main responsibilities of the Office of Treasurer. The Treasurer, he said, has custody of the funds and assets (except in invested surplus) of the Society. He keeps proper books of account and disburses funds under the direction of the Financial Vice-President and the Board of Governors.

Each of the officers stressed that within his area of responsibility, service to the Society's members and to the industry is his main concern.

Headquarters Staff

Breidt then described the structure and purposes of the Headquarters staff which, he said, was composed of dedicated professional people, each with special capabilities enabling them to provide assistance to SMPTE members.

As an example of the special services offered, he cited a query from a student member who was working on a thesis having to do with the technical history of motion pictures. The student was supplied not only with a list of pertinent *Journal* papers but with a list of books and certain issues of other journals plus photocopies of appropriate articles from the *Journal's* Historical file.

Breidt gave each of the Section Chairmen a chart which showed the names, faces, and titles of the staff members with the purpose of making it easy to get the right person on the phone without delay and also to make it possible to visualize the person on the phone instead of speaking to an impersonal voice. He urged the Section Chairmen to feel free to call at Headquarters or to telephone at any time. "That's what we're here for," he said, "we are in truth a service organization." Following Breidt's talk, Alex Alden described the Society's test films and tapes program.

SMPTE Journal

Next on the program was David Howell, Editor of the *SMPTE Journal*. Introducing himself to the Section Chairmen, Howell noted that although he had been Editor only since 1979 he had been involved with the

technical aspects of the *Journal* since 1972. He advised the Section Chairmen that they have an excellent opportunity to do much for the Society. Meeting often with the individual members of their sections they can learn the members' informational needs and can frequently offer advice as to where to go for answers to specific difficult questions. All of their concerns, he said, are potential subject matter for the *Journal*, and the *Journal*, which reflects the goals of the Society, advances the state of the art as well as providing information.

Howell called on all those present to inform Headquarters of their Sections' needs, their wishes, and their aspirations. He asked also for constructive criticism. He put special emphasis on the importance of frequent contributions of technical papers to the *Journal* and urged that Section Chairmen and members make special efforts to contribute manuscripts for possible *Journal* publication. He pointed out that the *Journal* provides all SMPTE members not only scientific and technical information but also news about the activities and achievements of their associates. News about new products and about changes and developments in the corporations that serve the industry are also regular features of the *Journal*.

He suggested that Section members spread the word about the many advantages of membership in the SMPTE, including the great value of the *Journal* to those in the motion-picture and television fields and related disciplines. "A two-way flow of information is what we seek," he said.

Open Discussion

The following day, 7 October, the final day of the Seminar, was spent in open discussion among the Section Chairmen, SMPTE officers, and members of the Headquarters staff. A number of interesting points were raised, and many perceptive questions asked, by the Section Chairmen. It was agreed by all present that the Training Seminar had been highly successful and augured well for the future.