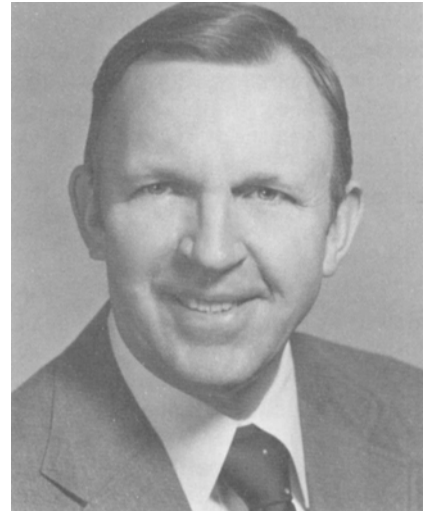


The 1981 Progress Report



William Hedden, Chairman of Progress Committee.

Prepared by the Progress Committee of the SMPTE

Edited by Rae Hargrave

FOREWORD

In 1956, the Progress Report was edited by Lloyd Thompson, a Fellow of the SMPTE and a Vice-President of our company (the Calvin Company). Since gathering the material and editing it was too taxing for one volunteer to accomplish, several of us at Calvin Co. became involved with the Progress Report to the extent of assisting Lloyd in his task. The onerousness of the task can be deduced from the fact that Lloyd's secretary resigned the day after the report had been completed.

In the 1956 May *JOURNAL*, the Progress Report accounted for only 24 pages; in the 1981 May *JOURNAL* it covered 73 pages. In 1956, only four pages were devoted to progress in foreign countries; in 1981, the international scene was covered in 44 pages.

The increase in size and coverage reflects the tremendous advances that have been made and are being made in motion picture and television engineering. It is true that the new technologies in television are more conspicuous and perhaps more controversial than advances made recently in motion picture engineering, but the two media are so closely intertwined these days in the problem of motion pictures (film) versus television (videotape), that any discussion of which is better somewhat resembles the old-fashioned mind-body problem in philosophy which, of course, is no longer seriously considered.

The expanded international coverage is also indicative of the way the world is going. Technologically, at least, the world is shrinking and becoming more unified, as evidenced by the efforts of SMPTE committees concerned with standardization to bring about universal standardization of new equipment for the benefit of both manufacturers and users.

All this is reflected year by year in the Progress Report. There are 38 members on the Progress Committee representing foreign countries in addition to the four Affairs Vice-Presidents who gather information from scientists and manufacturers and who prepare reports on technological progress in the United States during 1981.

The yearly Progress Report is eagerly awaited by readers throughout the world to provide them with information about advances made during the year and also to enable them to predict what may be in store for the future in the areas in which they are interested.

On behalf of the Society's membership I take this opportunity to thank the members of the Progress Committee who contribute the high quality technical information that makes the Progress Report the invaluable document that it is.

We should also mention the progress that has been made in the style and readability of the *SMPTE JOURNAL* during 1981. The covers and the content of the *JOURNAL* have taken on a new look that conforms to the spirit of the late 20th century in liveliness as well as in serious content. The improved *JOURNAL* benefits the SMPTE members and has received enthusiastic approval from the *JOURNAL*'s readers. Credit for professional approach and for the new look of the *JOURNAL* must go to the Editorial Vice-President, Maurice French, and to the *JOURNAL*'s former Managing Editor, Jack Christensen, for their vision and for their determination to make the *SMPTE JOURNAL* the best and most helpful journal in the world of motion picture and television engineering.

For many years, the Progress Report has been the responsibility of Rae Hargrave, who coordinates and edits the various reports with the aim of making each year's Progress Report more informative and more readable than all previous reports.

The Progress Report depends upon the cooperation and dedicated efforts of many people. We hope that each year it will be of increasing benefit to the members of the industries which are served by the Society.

**William D. Hedden
Chairman, Progress Committee**