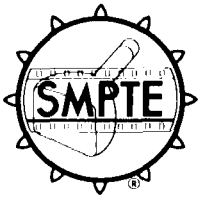
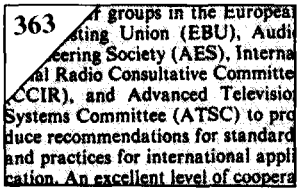
HIGHLIGHTS

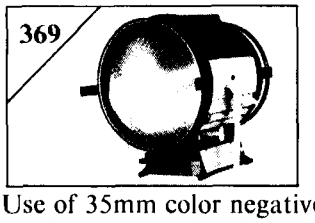




Engineering Report

R. G. Streeter

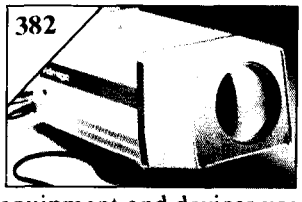
Sixty-eight years ago last July, our Society embarked upon the long, arduous road of developing and maintaining technical standards for the motion-picture industry. In the late 1940's, recognizing the need for standards in the emerging television technology, the Society expanded its role into that field. Although the Society has grown from the original handful of engineers into an organization of approximately 8000 members, the standardization process today is confined to a group of approximately 500 specialists who work through 8 technology committees and their 55 subgroups.



Motion Pictures

E. J. Blasko

During 1984, new records were set for sales of both 35mm color negative and 35mm color print films. Use of 35mm color negative films for prime-time network programming (weekly series, movies, and mini-series) remained high, as again nearly 80% of the networks' fall schedule was originated on film. Videotape has proven more cost-effective for real-time recording of situation comedies and specials, but not for action and drama shows. The use of 35mm color negative for feature films increased in 1984 as the number of theatrical starts in the U.S. grew to about 230.



Television

D. C. McCroskey

This edition of the *Journal* is structured to present a record of significant introductions of new equipment and devices used in our industry and to give some insights into the future directions we will be taking.

TV camera performance continues to improve while providing automatic setup features. Expensive setup time is reduced and at the same time consistency in matching is bettered. Image sensor performance has advanced. Although CCD sensors have not yet supplanted the Plumbicon for high-quality applications, they are claiming some specialized areas. The inherent stability of geometry and registration, with attendant low power consumption, is most attractive to users.

Education

S. H. Becker

The educational activities of the Society are carried out principally through technical conferences, section meetings, and special seminars provided by the sections. In 1984, in addition to the 126th Technical Conference in New York and the 18th Television Conference in Montreal, a number of outstanding educational programs were arranged and presented by various sections.

International

This section discusses the state of motion pictures and television in many countries of the world, together with an overview of the latest in equipment and technology. Changes taking place during 1984 are discussed with reference to the following countries: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, France, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, People's Republic of China, South Africa, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, and USSR, in addition to a European overview and report on the countries in the EBU. Topics covered include developments relating to studios, commercial television, film, lighting, videotape recording, cameras, satellite broadcasting, high-definition TV, disks, projection equipment, and others.

The 19th Annual SMPTE Television Conference

The 19th Annual Television Conference of the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers was held Friday, February 15, through Saturday, February 16, at the Westin St. Francis Hotel in San Francisco. More than 800 television engineers, scientists, and technical and management people from all corners of the globe attended this internationally famous conference.

The theme of the two-day meeting was "Components of the Future." The topics of the conference sessions were: Digital Components, Analog Components, Future Technology, and Stereo Audio in Television. A 43-booth equipment exhibit was held Friday and Saturday in conjunction with the technical program.