

news and reports

Motion Picture Research Council Test Films

The test film program of the Motion Picture Research Council was transferred to the SMPTE following the Council's disbandment March 18 and will be conducted as part of the Society's test film activities.

Announcement of the dissolution of the MPRC (necessitated by a drastic retrenchment program of the Association of Motion Picture Producers) brought about a re-evaluation of its continuing projects, one of the most important of these being the test film program. Assumption by the Society of responsibility for the MPRC test films can properly be regarded as an extension of the Society's own test film program which has been in existence many years.

The MPRC was incorporated in 1947. Prior to that it had existed, in so far as purpose and activities were concerned, first as the Technical Bureau of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, organized in 1928, and from 1932 to 1947 as the Research Council. Of recent years it has received its main support from the AMPP.

Over the years it has worked closely with the SMPTE and a number of papers by MPRC authors, describing various phases of its activities, have been presented at Conventions and many of them later published in the *Journal*. A paper by W. F. Kelley and W. V. Wolfe on "Technical Activities of the Motion Picture Research Council," presenting a brief description of the (then) various programs and activities, was published in the February 1951 *Journal* (pp. 178-196). The most recent of the reports from Council members was a combined report by William F. Kelley and Walter Beyer, "Summarizing Reports on Statistical Data for Motion-Picture Research Council Theater Survey," and "Motion Picture Research Council's Contribution to Better Theater Projection," presented at the Society's 1959 Fall Convention in New York. These are planned for publication in the *Journal* in the near future.

William F. Kelley, who has been associated for many years with the MPRC, will serve as consultant to the expanded phase of the Society's test film program.

Scientific and Technical Awards

Seven Academy Awards were made this year in the Scientific or Technical category; five in Class II and two in Class III. Plaques were presented honoring achievements in the Class II division and a Certificate of Honorable Mention was presented to each of the Class III winners. In the order of presentation, Award recipients in Class II are:

Douglas G. Shearer of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer and *Robert E. Gottschalk* of Panavision for developing a system of producing and exhibiting wide-film motion pictures known as Camera 65.

Wadsworth E. Pohl, William Evans, Werner Hopf, S. E. Howse, Thomas P. Dixon, Stanford Research Institute and *Technicolor Corp.* for the design and development of the Technicolor Electronic Printing Timer.

Wadsworth E. Pohl, Jack Alford, Henry Imus, Joseph Schmit, Paul Fassnacht, Al Lofquist and *Technicolor Corp.* for the development and practical application of equipment for wet printing.

Howard S. Coleman, A. Francis Turner, Howard S. Schroeder, James R. Benford and *Harold E. Rosenberger* of the Bausch & Lomb Optical Co. for the design and development of the Balcold Projection Mirror. This was the subject of a paper before the Society's Convention in Washington, D. C., in May, 1957. A current technical report, "A Commercial Cold Reflector," is in preparation for early publication in the *Journal*.

Robert P. Gutterman of General Kinetics Inc. and the *Lipsner-Smith Corp.* for the

design and development of the CF-2 Ultrasonic Film Cleaner.

In Class III the Award recipients are: *Ub Iwerks* of Walt Disney Productions for the design of an improved optical printer for special effects and matte shots, and *E. L. Stones, Glen Robinson, Winfield Hubbard* and *Luther Newman* of the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Construction Dept. for the design of a multiple-cable remote-controlled winch.

Education, Industry News

More than three thousand art lovers in four cities — New York, Dallas, Los Angeles and Chicago — attended a televised auction sale where 50 works of art and \$871,850 changed hands. Proceeds of the sale went to the Museum of Modern Art. The auction, broadcast over closed circuit, was held in the Parke-Bernet Galleries in New York. Special audio equipment installed by Theatre Network Television, Inc., brought out-of-town bids to New York and large viewing screens in other cities enabled the audiences to view the paintings and statues while listening to the auctioneer's comments. Top prices were paid for Cezanne's "Les Pommès" (\$200,000) and a Braque (\$145,000).

Construction of a new motion-picture theater in a Chicago suburb — the first to be built in that area for more than a decade — has been announced by Raymond J. Marks and Martin G. Rosenfield, owners of M & R Amusement Companies,

1777 Howard St., Chicago. Plans for the theater are based on what is called a "sawtooth" design. The height of the front of the building, according to the plans, would be 20 ft. The roof would follow ten step-ups to a height of 40 ft at the back. The building will be 223 ft long and 105 ft wide with seating space for an audience of 1700. The dimensions of the building will accommodate a screen 60 ft wide and 25 ft high. The theater will be constructed on a seven-acre lot which will include a parking area for 900 cars.

A new closed-circuit educational TV system has been installed at the University of California at Berkeley. It uses a Marconi Mark IV camera with a 4½-in. image orthicon for both closed-circuit and broadcast applications. This camera is being used in the broadcast of a series of lectures on physics over KQED-TV, Channel 9, San Francisco. With approximately 40 ft-c at a distance of 90 ft, using the 6½ to 40-in. range of a Super Universal Zoomar lens, excellent broadcast quality pictures are obtained with an *f*-stop setting between 8 and 11, according to Ken Winslow, Head of Educational Television, Department of Visual Communications. The camera is also used for closed-circuit classroom instruction, using available light under widely varying conditions.

The British Amateur Television Club extends an invitation to any and all SMPTE members who can be in London on Saturday, September 10, 1960, to visit the