

*Editor's Note: The following article is the conclusion of the reprint of W.M. Murray's article "The SESA in the Beginning." In future issues, we will feature various historical perspectives from long-standing SEM members.*

### Establishment of Journal

Bonney responded with alacrity to the challenge placed before him by the ad hoc committee. By the time of the conference in New York City, he had worked up a good detailed presentation of what he thought might be suitable for the over-all content and general format of the proposed new magazine; also, he had developed a number of other useful ideas.

As a result of the early discussions, the Society retained Bonney as a part-time consultant to carry out the following assignments:

1. To make an estimate of the probable costs involved in establishing a new journal, *Experimental Mechanics*, and in running it for each of the first three years.
2. With the collaboration of Dr. Lazan, to conduct a survey to determine what revenues might be expected from advertising for each of the first three years of the Journal.
3. To report the findings to the Executive Committee at its forthcoming meeting in Indianapolis during May, 1960.

Bonney's report was duly presented to the Executive Committee, in May, and approved with commendation for the thoroughness with which it had been prepared. As a result of the information which had been made available through the combined efforts of the Messrs. Lazan and Rossi, the Executive Committee decided to proceed with arrangements for establishing a new, monthly journal, with Volume 1, Number 1, scheduled to appear in January, 1961. Bonney was appointed Executive Secretary of the Society and editor of the Journal. Plans were also worked out for an orderly process of transition which would enable Bonney to set up new headquarters for the Society in Westport, Conn.; to assemble a staff; and, ultimately, to facilitate the transfer of all activities from Cambridge to the new location by the end of the coming October. In making the transition it was, of course, necessary to avoid any moves which might interfere with either the arrangements for the forthcoming annual meeting, in Berkeley, Calif., or

the production of Volume 17-2 of Proceedings which was in the process of being set up for printing.

### SESA Receives NSF Grant

In addition to all the planning which was required in connection with the new journal and the transfer of the headquarters office, a very formidable financial problem still remained to be solved. Even with the most optimistic estimate of the Society's available resources and anticipated income, it was somewhat doubtful whether the organization was strong enough to initiate the new journal and to maintain it until the revenue from advertising could be built up to keep the operation going on a self-sustaining basis. Fortunately the problem had been foreseen, and the ad hoc committee had already taken some steps to overcome it by ascertaining that the National Science Foundation was in a position to grant funds for starting new technical journals by nonprofit organizations.

Uncle Sam to the rescue! The decision to embark upon establishing a new journal was made with the knowledge that it might be possible to obtain a grant from the National Science Foundation, and the making of an application for funds was considered in the over-all planning to institute the magazine. Once the decision to go ahead had been made, part of the plan included an application for funds, and the remaining members of the ad hoc committee (Campbell had died shortly after the committee was formed, in 1959) went to work. Drucker prepared estimates of the amount of funds required and the times at which certain payments should be received by the Society. Vigness prepared the initial draft of the proposal to the National Science Foundation, and Lazan wrote the final version which carried signatures of the officers of the Society. Wenk acted as liaison man in Washington. As a result of the efforts of these four men, the NSF made the grant which enabled the Society to carry its project through in the manner which it was hoped would be possible. To the Drs. Drucker, Lazan, Vigness and Wenk, the Society and its members owe a tremendous debt of gratitude for all the time and effort which they so willingly, and graciously, devoted to the sound operation of the organization, and the introduction of an outstanding periodical of which we can all be proud.

### Incorporation of SESA

As the Eastern Photoelasticity Conference, and subsequently the SESA, had originally been operating as an unincorporated body, part of the plan in connection with the establishment of a professional secretariat involved incorporating the organization. This assignment was turned over to the secretary-treasurer, who completed it when the SESA was formally incorporated, in the state of Delaware, on January 13, 1961.

### Closing Remarks

In bringing this brief historical note toward its final stages, one must not forget that, in the original (1944) bylaws of the Society, there was provision for the election of not more than five honorary members, who would be selected in recognition of their outstanding contributions and services to the SESA. Up to December 31, 1960, three well deserving members have, from time to time, been so honored in the following chronological order: Francis G. Tatnall, Miklos Hetenyi, and Max M. Frocht. The writer's name was officially added to this list in 1967.

In conclusion, one would like to pay tribute to Bonney Rossi, our Managing Director, whose energy and devotion during the last eight years, have expanded the Society's activities in all areas, carried through the labors and publication of two international Congresses on Experimental Mechanics, and provided the members with an outstanding and internationally recognized magazine which is a joy to receive each month. For all his hard work, and very successful efforts on behalf of the Society, thanks, greetings, salutations, and appreciation!

Obviously it is impossible to mention the name of every member who has contributed to the progress and well-being of the Society. But to those who are unnamed, let us also convey a few words of thanks and appreciation, for, without them, there would be no SESA.

Lastly, to Fred Bailey, the incumbent president, a word of appreciation, not only for his accomplishments during 1968, the Silver Anniversary Year, but also for his efforts of the past, and in particular, for his skill and patience when, as treasurer, he guided the Society through a very critical period of financial stringency.