

**TO JONATHAN ERLAND AND THE VISUAL EFFECTS  
RULES COMMITTEE FROM LINWOOD G. DUNN**

In reference to your request for material regarding the exhibition and importance of motion picture visual effects in public demonstrations, I can refer you to a fairly recent display at the Los Angeles County Museum. Also, there was an impressive museum tour managed by the AFI in Washington, in the form of a traveling visual effects exhibition.

In addition, I have a 3-hour film-lecture presentation made up of film clips from noted visual effects sequences and procedure demonstrations which I created from material I saved over the many years of my career. I've given this presentation literally hundreds of times at most all of the major university cinema departments, museums in New York, Boston, San Francisco, San Diego, other technical and film art organizations, industry training groups, and production company staff meetings both here and overseas. The popularity of this aspect of movie making and its reception by the above mentioned variety of organizations, has been absolutely tremendous. The exceptional popularity of the subject, ranging from the reaction of top ranking professional filmmakers clear down to grade school classes, has been very rewarding to me. In many cases I have been paid handsome fees plus all expenses to present my unique show.

A separate branch for visual effects in the Academy is long overdue and an absolute necessity due to its very unique position in the creation of motion pictures. The scope of this most important aspect of film production begins in the planning stages, with the writers' right to be unlimited in their creativity on what they want to show on the screen. This carries on through the needs of the art department and production manager, who have to find a way to prepare for the production needs of the creators, on to supporting the director

of photography, where problems can appear during the normal run of his creative work requiring the help of certain visual effects techniques. Then there's the vast amount of post production visual effects work in compositing various elements shot separately of necessity and continues through the very specialized field of repairing and modifying scenes that require that kind of help to complete the film. The number of visual effects craftsmen and technicians continues to grow to meet the increasing demands of the films made today. A separate Visual Effects Branch is necessary to give this field of work its proper recognition, acknowledging the complexity of its various aspects and its importance to the filmmaking community today.