

The Geological Survey, as a part of its third order control requirements for mapping, runs several thousand miles of transit traverse lines each year. These traverse lines are maintained in accurate geodetic azimuth by frequent observations on polaris taken at any hour angle. For many years, the Survey has published the Baldwin Solar chart, primarily for use in orienting a plane table board by reference to the sun at any hour of the day. So it was natural that sooner or later an attempt would be made to design a chart that would readily give polaris azimuths for transit use. A few years ago the chart was developed and given the name "Polastrodial." The chart proved easy to use but is not sufficiently precise for our transit traverse requirements, so a design in metal was developed. This instrument is on display at the Geological Survey exhibit. Its operation from the point of both speed and accuracy has exceeded expectations.

The Survey has several other items in various stages of experiment and development, but time will not permit further discussion. Also like most other organizations, we have quite an extensive file of wishful-thinking items. I believe it is a good idea to keep such a file, either physically or mentally, and every now and then pull out an item for discussion. It is surprising how often visionary deas of yesterday are tomorrow's established standards.

COLOR FILM—SECRET LAND*

Captain R. H. Quackenbush, Jr., Chief of Naval Photography

THE motion picture, "Secret Land," which you are about to see, is the product of about six months' hard work and difficult photography of seventy-odd Marine, Army, Coast Guard, and Navy photographers under the able supervision and herculean effort of Lieutenant Charles Shirley, USN. The film shows the operations and accomplishments of Task Force 68 in the Navy's Antarctic Expedition of 1946-1947.

You may wonder why a film of a documentary nature and of entertainment value is connected with photogrammetry. I think we all know and realize that one phase of photogrammetric work is the taking of aerial photographs. The mere snapping of the shutter is not all the work connected with that.

This picture will portray the means of getting the camera to the position to take the pictures which we took on Operation Highjump.

While the picture was filmed by official military photographers, it was produced by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. It is being shown currently throughout the nation in theaters, and we have the privilege of showing it here through the courtesy of M-G-M.

To speak further of this motion picture, I think, would detract from its entertainment. So without further ado, and with the courtesy of M-G-M, we will now show "Secret Land."

* An introduction to the color film shown at Annual Meeting of the American Society of Photogrammetry, Washington, D. C., January 14, 1949.