

## STATE FILM ARCHIVES OF W.A.

Now in its fourth year of existence, the State Film Archives of Western Australia shows steady progress in regard to both technical facilities and the collection of historic film material. Amongst the items of equipment bought lately is a dual-facility Intercine viewing unit. Equipped with sound, this versatile viewer can focus on an individual frame, either 16 mm or 35 mm, and allows precious film to be examined without subjecting it to the stresses of normal projection.

The storage vault now contains some 250,000 feet of film which has been acquired by donation, copying, and, to a small extent, purchase. It includes a substantial quantity of discarded newsfilm presented by Perth's two commercial television stations. A recent donation of importance was a lifetime collection of 16 mm film from Sir Frederick Samson, mayor of Fremantle from 1951 to 1972.

The functions and objectives of the Archives have been given publicity through the distribution of a brochure and of a circular letter appealing for film and related material. Each year an evening has been devoted to a program of films which the Archives holds as projection prints; the invited audience has included representatives of the commercial film industry, the news media, and historical groups. The National Film Archive has given generous co-operation, and personal contact was strengthened by the visit of Mr Graham Stone of the National Library at the time of the biennial library conference.

The post of Film Archives Officer has been established within the State Film Centre, and the general management of the Archives is the responsibility of a sub-committee of the State Film Centre Advisory Committee, consisting at present of eight members. For the first two years from its inception in 1969, the sub-committee was under the chairmanship of Miss Mollie Lukis, who was then librarian of the Battye Library of WA History, and currently the chairman is Mr David Hutchison, Curator of History at the W.A. Museum.