

## Burbank... on Parade!

# Librascope Now Rated as A Top Producer of Automatic Equipment

(No. 84 in a series of factual stories of Burbank and Burbankers.)  
(Continued from Sunday)

By ADE BANKS

Lewis Imm's balance computer was made standard equipment on Lockheed airplanes and was placed in operation by Trans World Airlines. In a two year period, more than 300 balance computers were internationally distributed.

When the infant Librascope organization became part of General Precision Equipment Corporation in 1941, Librascope continued serving the expanding aircraft industry by developing a group of new instruments: The Power Computer, Flight Computer, Master Design Computer and several navigational computers. These Librascope instruments demonstrated the first successful application of the principle of the linkage multiplier, utilizing new combinations and forms of linkages.

Today, Librascope is rated a top producer of automatic control equipment involving computing principles for coordinating several input variables to achieve the final desired result. Its present Burbank engineering laboratories and Glendale manufacturing plants (all to be ultimately combined in the new 50,000 sq. ft. plant) present a fantastic galaxy of sine and co-sine computing mechanisms, mock-up shops, multipliers, dividers, integrators, a giant Swiss jig borer and "thinking machines" on assembly lines.

From the Glendale plant alone have come, along with many other complex "answer" devices, a quantity of high speed cameras for the Atomic Energy Commission and a number of sets of amazing new infra-red units for engineering research and development laboratories.

Still another new Librascope development is the new Ball Disc Integrator, unique for its small size, high power transmitting capacity and extreme repetitive accuracy, making possible the computation of even more complex problems.

As Lewis W. Imm, George Friedl, Jr., President of Librascope, Barry B. Willis, Controller, and their engineering associates see it, the relatively new field of statistical quality control offers a unique opportunity for linkage multiplier principles.

"No machine can yet replace human judgment or man's creative impulses," states Friedl, "but machines are being developed which solve complex problems through electro-mechanical methods—solve them faster and far more accurately than can the human mind. If the variables in a computing problem can be determined in advance, and if the relationship between the variables is known, trends and changes can be predicted and the problem can be solved by computing instruments. These instruments can be coupled with corrective anticipatory controls to improve operations."

Librascope engineers believe that automatic control in industry will call for more instruments such as the Automatic Tristimulus Integrator, deviation computers, weighted average X-Y coordinate plotters, process control instruments for color printing and similar "thinking machines." Similar computers will find a place in oil refining, textiles, soap, vitamins, dyes, plastics and in smog and metal analysis.

Librascope's calculating machines, with their amazing variety of adaptations, have contributed to Burbank's being known all over the world as an interesting part of the growing Los Angeles industrial picture.

Before long, Librascope may well be known as the place where industry comes for its answers.

Future articles in this series will be devoted to other outstanding Burbankers.