

A Word from the Symposium Chairman

Within the memory of many of us, radio was the upstart off-spring of electrical engineering and microwaves were no more than an oddity. Yet today, the IRE Professional Group on Microwave Theory and Techniques has attracted almost 1000 scientists and engineers from all over the country to its National meeting.

Developments in this field have been so varied and numerous that approximately 65 excellent papers were submitted for this Symposium. As a result, the technical program committee had a most difficult task in selecting the 20 contributed papers that could be accommodated in a three-day meeting. The task was made doubly hard by the temptation to hold multiple sessions. I hope you will agree with this year's committee which voted to spare us from the dilemmas invariably presented by dual sessions, and succeeded—almost.

For the first time at a PGMTT Symposium, we are publishing a pre-meeting Digest of Technical Papers. Its purpose is manyfold, and we hope it will help make each paper more interesting and informative, allow greater concentration and participation by the audience, and provide a Symposium record. The Digest will in no way influence publication of papers in the Transactions, which is in fact encouraged. We sincerely hope the Digest meets with your approval and acceptance.

If there be a central theme in this years Symposium, I suppose it is noise, in the very technical sense of that word. Paraphrasing someone who once said, "You don't understand a phenomenon unless you can measure it", it follows as well that you can measure something you don't understand. Realizing this, the members of the panel session on Measurement of Low Noise Figure have written a unique paper especially for this Symposium Digest which is presented in full. We are sure you will find it interesting and recommend that you read it in preparation for this session.

With best wishes for an enjoyable and productive Symposium, and with sincere thanks to all who have contributed to it, I present to you the 1961 National Symposium of the IRE-PGMTT.

Robert O. Stone
General Chairman