WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?



TOM ORR, Process Laboratorian (foreground) making an analytic casting determination, while JIM SNYDER, Laboratorian, takes a density reading.



by M. J. Brandon

Employees of the Control Laboratory monitor the quality of all phases of the manufacturing process, furnishing information required to assure the operating areas their raw materials, packaging materials, and other items which may affect the finished product are within specified quality standards. The finished product is tested exhaustively to maintain a quality level that will create and maintain satisfaction among our customers.

The Control Laboratory employees routinely perform many tests; and they must develop skills to use the specilized equipment to analyze the raw materials. They also monitor air contamination (radiation), and water pollution. After water is used, it is tested at five different locations before it is returned to the river.

Many tests are performed for the Casting Units to insure that the physical properties of the base are within specified limits for its varied uses. Some of these tests are to check color, dimensional stability, and strength of the base.

A sample coating on the Lab's trial coater is used to obtain a quick check of certain variables in raw materials of the Coating Area. The trial coater is also used to check for possible contamination in the finished base.

In the sensitometric section, the Lab makes checks of the photographic quality of the finished product. This is done by simulating conditions our customers would encounter in the use of our product. The sheets of x-ray film are processed through equipment designed to duplicate the customers' facilities and conditions. Technicians even go so far as to take simulated chest and skull "shots" to better analyize the diagnostic clarity of the film.

In test after test, the employees of the Control Laboratory work hand in glove with the employees of the manufacturing areas, continually performing exacting tests and assuring high quality x-ray film to our customers. The employees who work in this area have a great responsibility—it is their tests, and their results which guide the manufacturing areas.



GERALD LUSK, Laboratorian, performing a Coating weight analysis.



EDDIE CLAYTON makes an analysis of "Cronar" base on the Spectophotometer.



DEE McCALL, Finishing Area Service Operator (foreground) and MARVIN WHITMIRE, Finishing Area Quality Control Checker use information from the Control Lab's tests to make decisions before finished x-ray film is sent to the warehouses.