

May 6, 1981

Alfred Willcox, Executive Director  
Math. Assoc. of America  
1529 18th St. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20036

I would like to report that our Iowa Section Meeting did attempt to have a film program. I had written you, asking for suggestions. Your suggestion was, that for purposes of a Section meeting, Wards might supply some films free of charge.

I am upset with what happened. To the best of my knowledge, this is the sequence of events

- 1) I wrote to them, clearly stating that I was program chairman of the Iowa Section and asked for 4 films, and asked that I be advised immediately of the cost and availability of these four films,
- 2) Six weeks later, I had heard nothing, so I called them. I could find no one who knew of my letter or who cared to investigate the matter.
- 3) Two days before the meeting, 2 of the films were sent to the Mathematics Dept. of Iowa State University with no mention of me or Iowa MAA. It was only by accident that I noticed them there.
- 4) Several days ago, Iowa State University received a bill for these two films, of course without having ever ordered them.

I hope that this is not how they ordinarily conduct their business. Certainly the MAA should not allow such shoddy practices for their film distributions

With respect to the two films we did receive, the cycloidal curves was of some interest, but the other one was a disaster. "What is Mathematics, and how do we teach it" should never be shown. It is an embarrassment to the mathematical community in its design and execution. Furthermore, the particular copy we got had a very poor sound track.

Sincerely yours,

A. M. Fink

AMP/bf