

# mITS

## WORLD ALTAIR

### COMPUTER CONVENTION

THE FIRST WORLD ALTAIR COMPUTER CONVENTION WAS HELD March 26-28 at the Airport Marina Hotel in Albuquerque, NM. Successful? Was it ever! Over 700 participants from 46 states and 7 foreign countries gathered to talk computers, exchange information, ask questions, participate in seminars, match their system against other systems in a demonstration contest and see many different systems in operation.

MITS sponsored the convention and they plan to make it an annual event. Seminars were presented by MITS' engineers and software developers.

Saturday night's event was a discussion led by a group of



**BILL GATES**, one of the writers of Altair Basic, presents a general software seminar.



**SEMINARS** were interesting and well attended, as can be seen from the above photograph.



**GUEST SPEAKERS** at Awards Banquet are, from left to right, Lou Fields (Vice President of Southern California Computer Society), Manfred and Virginia Peschke (publishers of Byte), David Ahl (publisher of Creative Computing) and Larry Steckler (Editor of Radio-Electronics).

guest speakers. The theme of the discussion was the future of computers in general and its effect upon hobbyists in particular. The group of speakers included Ted Nelson (author of *Computer Lib*), David Ahl (*Creative Computing*), Carl Helmers (*Byte Magazine*), Larry Steckler (**Radio-Electronics**) and Les Solomon (*Popular Electronics*) among others.

The highlight of the convention was the awards banquet held Sunday where the winners of the demonstration contest were announced. The grand prize, a complete Altair floppy-disc system, was awarded to Don Alexander of Columbus,



**CARL HELMERS** of Byte receives trophy from Lou Fields, Vice President of Southern California Computer Society, in recognition of Byte's contribution to the home computer field.