

# SMPTE Winter TV Conference A Success; TV News & Digital TV Among Highlights

By JOSEPH SEMMELMAYER, *Conference Chairman*

The SMPTE's Ninth Annual Winter Television Conference recently held at the St. Francis Hotel in San Francisco proved to be a great success. Three hundred seventy-five people registered for this event. Most stayed for all of the papers, attesting to the timeliness and makeup of the program, despite San Francisco weather and other attractions that provided tempting alternatives to the Conference sessions.

A separate room adjacent to the conference hall was provided for demonstration of hardware and techniques associated directly with the papers being presented. This proved to be very popular since anyone could get a closer and more detailed look at the devices described in the technical sessions.

## Friday Morning Papers

Friday morning papers were related to "Broadcast Journalism." Dow Smith of KPIX described the news gathering problem. Joe Flaherty of CBS and Ralph Hucaby of WLAC in Nashville, Tennessee, described Electronic News Gathering at two stations. They gave the reasons for and benefits of using lightweight, portable color cameras and VTR's for news acquisition. Ed DiGiulio of Cinema Products Corp. and Dick DiBona of General Camera Corp. described new film cameras and equipment for TV news. Eastman Kodak introduced a new Eastman Ektachrome Video News Film 7240, designed specifically for TV news. There was a lively floor debate about the validity of some of the cost reduction claims made by the electronic news gathering proponents. This debate is likely to go on for some time to come.

## Friday Afternoon Papers

Friday afternoon's program included a number of non-broadcast television ap-

plications. K. Blair Benson, Goldmark Communications, described the application of cassette VTR's for exhibition of feature films for CATV and hotel/motel pay TV. He deplored the lack of standardization in this field, stating there are now ten different non-interchangeable cueing formats, creating difficulties for program duplicators and exhibitors. Walt Robson of Hewlett Packard showed how far industrial use of television for training, communications and sales has come. Steve Kerman of Tektronix described their new 1400 waveform monitor and design considerations for new measurement instrumentation. T. M. Gluyas of RCA gave a paper on "Practical Limitations of Off-Air Pulse and Bar Performance Measurements." A. H. Lind of RCA described the new RCA TCP-1624 cartridge film projector and how to incorporate it into Telecine Islands.

## Saturday Morning Papers

Part of Saturday morning was devoted to papers given by local television station engineers on practical aspects of running a station. Dave Wortman of KOVR, Stockton, discussed the communications problem; Charles Newman of KPIX, San Francisco, talked about semi-automation of VTR control; Walt Nichol of KPIX discussed a TV man's approach to digital control. Dr. Lester Lee of Recortec described their unique tape handling equipment modifications.

Ampex and RCA each presented papers on their new quadruplex recorders, namely the AVR-2 and TR60. Bert Dann and Keith Reynolds of International Video Corp. told how to use the IVC segmented Helical 9000 recorder for extended bandwidth recording for tape-to-film transfer, etc. IVC also gave

a paper on a new broadcast television camera.

## Saturday Afternoon Papers

Saturday afternoon sessions devoted to Digital Video proved to be immensely popular. Stan Busby of Ampex gave a tutorial paper, defining digital video techniques and parameters. The stage for Saturday's session had been set at the Friday noon luncheon speech delivered by Charles Ginsburg, Vice-President of Ampex. His theme was that the digital VTR is still far off and that analog VTR's might also be improved along with digital units. Frank Davidoff of CBS gave his views on digital video recording. William Hendershot of CVS described the CVS 600 synchronizer which permits video compression of the television signal to one-quarter size. Mark Sanders of Ampex described the Ampex TBC800 time-base corrector. John Lowry gave a paper making a pitch for digital video processing at four times sub-carrier frequency. He also showed a unit based on this concept made by Digital Video Labs of Ontario, Canada.

Major credit for the success of the Conference should go to Program Chairman Charles Anderson, to Joe Semmelmayer, Conference Chairman, and to Werner Ruhl, the Arrangements Chairman. They were ably assisted by many members of the San Francisco Section. The Friday luncheon was well attended, and Mr. Ginsburg's speech proved to be of great interest to the TV people in the audience. Ken Mason, Society President, welcomed the attendees on behalf of SMPTE. Other officers and board members sat at the head table.

Another very popular feature of the Conference was the wine and cheese tasting party on Friday evening. This was hosted by KRON, KPIX, KGO, KTVU and CBS at the Kodak facility overlooking San Francisco Bay. Audio recordings of all sessions will be available from the Society. The recordings were made by Bill Palmer and dubbed by Recortec.



Left picture—George Shoemaker, Joe Semmelmayer, Werner Ruhl and Chuck Anderson, meeting to recap and wrap up the Conference activities. Right picture—Part of the crowd at the technical sessions.