



Introduction of head table at conference luncheon.

Toronto, Rochester, Montreal/Quebec, and Ottawa Sections Hold Mini-Conference in Toronto

Two hundred and thirteen registered members and friends of the Society gathered in Toronto on April 27 to participate in the 1990 Northeastern Mini-Conference of the Toronto, Rochester, Montreal/Quebec, and Ottawa Sections of the Society. This annual event is hosted each year in turn by these sections and enjoys a high level of participation from members in this region.

The conference opening event was a reception on Friday night that was attended not only by conference delegates and the Conference Committee but also by President Maurice French, Vice-Presidents Jack Spring and Irwin Young, Executive Director Lynette Robinson, and Editorial Director John Baptista. Also in attendance were members of the Toronto Conference Committee, including Conference Chairman David George, Arrangements Chairman Howard Wilkinson, Papers and Program Co-Chairmen Peter Laidlaw and Fung Lam, Presentation Chairman Ed Holmes, Publishing and Publicity Chairman John Howells, Partners' Program Co-Chairwomen Kay George and Lenore Wilkinson, Sponsors Chairman Stephen Cook, and Finance Chairwoman Edith Ballantyne. Canadian Governor Gordon Ballantyne and Past Governor Grant Dearnaley were at the reception, as were most of the session chairmen and speakers.

The title of the Mini-Conference was "Visions 90." The program was

designed to be tutorial in nature, exploring some of the technological alternatives the film and television industry would be facing in the next decade as viewed from just entering the 1990's. The program was arranged in three distinct sessions, each dealing with the technological changes expected within a specific area. The first session, to take place on Saturday morning, was to explore upcoming developments in television and video post-production. The afternoon program was designed around film and the film/tape interface. The subject of advanced television was discussed on Sunday morning and would conclude with a tour of a new high-definition television production mobile recently completed by Telesat Canada. Each of the sessions was designed to begin with a visionary statement presented by someone active and knowledgeable in that particular area that would set out arenas of expected change and growth throughout the decade. This was followed by invited papers targeted on specific areas of the subject.

Saturday morning's session began with a welcome and conference overview given by David George, Imaginering Ltd., the Conference Chairman. He welcomed the members and guests, explained the conference theme and the framework, as well as thanking those who had submitted papers for consideration in the program. He then introduced David Garforth, the Session Chairman for the

television and post-production session, along with Assistant Chairman John Howard, Chairman of the Ottawa Section of the Society.

David Garforth, who is the Director of the Transmission and Distribution Dept. of the Canadian Broadcasting Corp., provided the visionary statement for this segment of the conference. He noted several changes that he felt were just around the corner in the technology of television, particularly the expected explosive growth in the area of digital systems for television applications.

The first speaker, Patrick Whittingham, explained that Sony's vision of the all-digital plant was now capable of implementation as a result of the Sony-proposed serial-digital intercommunication protocol.

Steve Leyda, Ampex Corp., then explained the challenges involved in the recording of digital video.



Conference Chairman David George introduces the Conference Committee and thanks sponsors at Banquet.

An overview of the new 1/2-in. digital recorder technology was presented by Harris Kirshenbaum of Matsushita Canada.

The changes in the style of post-production resulting from the increasing availability of digital technology were discussed in papers presented by George Dyke, Oasis Telefacilities, and by Andy Sheldon, Abekas.

At the luncheon, SMPTE President Maurice French offered his greetings to the delegates and reiterated how important these conferences were to the Society of its members. He also provided a preliminary report of his recent travels to Russia and other European countries and reported that considerable interest was expressed in establishing additional foreign sections of the Society.

The guest speaker at the luncheon was Joan Donaldson, CBC News-world. In his introduction, Conference Chairman David George suggested that her remarks might be particularly appropriate, as Ms. Donaldson was in the process of establishing a new specialized television service in Canada, and that the introduction of advanced television technologies through this decade might mean that certain broadcasters, now offering more general fare, might also be faced with developing specialized services.

The Saturday afternoon session focused on film and the film/tape interface. Session Chairman Alan Masson, Eastman Kodak Co., introduced the program. Noting that rumors of the demise of film were greatly exaggerated, Dr. Masson presented his vision of the vital role of film, now and in the future. With new emulsions,

and new sound processes, Dr. Masson clearly established that film is a still-evolving technology, one likely to continue to be the production medium of choice well into the future.

The first two papers in this session dealt with the evolution of the film medium as regards the recording and playback of sound on film. Frederick Gasoi, National Film Board of Canada, described an exciting new technology, developed by NFB and Barringer Research, to provide 5-track digital sound on conventional 35mm film stock. Philip Vogel, Eastman Kodak Co., described their cooperation with Optical Radiation Corp., leading to the introduction of Cinema Digital Sound.

With the increasing emphasis being placed upon the cost-savings inherent in the use of video techniques for posting film productions, John Galt, Sony Advanced Systems, presented the case for production and post in HDTV, with final transfer of tape to film via the Sony EBR. The Electron beam recorder (EBR) creates 35mm black-and-white positive color separations from a standard SMPTE 240M HDTV video input.

Tony Meeraker, Magnetic North, described this company's experiences in the introduction and integration of digital processes into a large post house.

As the final paper of the Saturday session, Shawn Carnahan, Adcom-Toronto, presented an overview of the currently available techniques for nonlinear editing of film and tape, pictures and sound, and discussed the latest innovations which use removable and erasable magneto-optical disk media.

The Sunday morning session dealt with enhanced and advanced TV systems. Session Chairman was Bernie D'Lima, Telesat Canada, who introduced the session by noting the close attention being paid to the subject of advanced TV by Telesat.

David George, the Conference Chairman, presented a succinct summary of advanced and high-definition television developments to date.

The first paper was presented by Christian Tremblay, Miranda Technologies. It combined a discussion of the challenges of multidimensional filtering techniques with an example of their application to a real-world product, an advanced NTSC decoder.

The real-world complexities involved in the design of a HDTV production facility were then discussed by Lou Montana, Imagineering Ltd.

Anthony Alblas, Skyline Cablevision, presented the cable operators' view of the implications of the introduction of advanced and high-definition television on the cable plant.

In the final paper of the Mini-Conference, Peter Pleckaitis told the assembled delegates of the challenges and the fun involved in Telesat's participation in the first North American high-definition live broadcast of a sports event — the Sugar Ray Leonard/Robert Duran fight covered live from Las Vegas, Nevada.

At the end of the presentations, Conference Chairman David George closed the Mini-Conference with compliments to the speakers for the high standard of their papers, and with thanks to the delegates and conference committee for making this first SMPTE Mini-Conference of the 1990s a great success.



The Conference Committee. (L-R) Edle Ballantyne, Finance Chairwoman; Kay George and Lenore Wilkinson, Partners' Program Chairwomen; John Howells, Publicity Chairman; Gordon Ballantyne, Canadian Governor; Steven Cook, Sponsors Chairman; Fung Lam, Papers Co-Chairman; Howard Wilkinson, Arrangements Chairman; David Currie, Registration Chairman; David George, Conference Chairman; Fred Lemmin, Toronto Section Chairman; Ed Holmes, Presentation Facilities Chairman; Peter Laidlaw, Papers Co-Chairman.