

Lester Shorr

Lester Shorr, a Life Fellow of the Society, died on July 28, 1992, at the age of 85. During his lifetime, Shorr helped pioneer the techniques of multiple-camera filmed TV cinematography, which became the basic format for television sitcoms, and devised a system that gave each camera its own fill light and battery, eliminating restrictive cables.

A cinematographer who started working in features during the silent era, but became best known for his work in television, Shorr won the first Emmy Award for cinematography in 1954 for a segment of the NBC dramatic series, "Medic."

He entered the industry as an assistant cameraman in 1926 and became a camera operator in 1939. A director of photography for over 30 years, he worked for many years as an operator for Columbia Pictures. He also held positions with Desilu Studios and Paramount Pictures Corp.

An SMPTE member since 1954, Shorr was presented with a Certificate of Commendation, honoring his many outstanding contributions to the motion-picture industry, during the October 1977 SMPTE Technical Conference. He was also an active member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Frank L. Marx

Frank L. Marx, a Life Fellow of the Society, is dead at the age of 82. Marx joined the Society in 1949, at which time he was the vice-president, engineering, at ABC, Inc.

In 1930, while serving as chief engineer at stations WPCB and WMCA in New York City, Marx carried out successful experiments that led to a single-antenna operation of both stations. At WMCA, he was responsible for the design, construction, and installation of several complete broadcast plants. He also carried out experiments with radio relay transmitters, as well as conducted tests on a broadcast transmitter at 26 Mcycles, where transmission lines were studied and a method of locating shorts in concentric transmission lines was developed.

During his career, Marx served on RTBP panels on FM broadcasting, relay systems, and television. He was a member of the Committee on Sabotage of Radio Stations during World War II, a senior member of the IRE, and a member of the Association of Federal Communications Consulting Engineers, Radio Executives Club of New York, Radio Pioneers Club, and Washington Engineers Club. He had contributed to various technical radio publications and held a Letters Patent on radio and electronic devices.

New Products

A multimedia computer was launched by Commodore Business Machines, Inc., 1200 Wilson Dr., West Chester, PA 19380, (215) 431-9100, Fax: (215) 431-9156. The Amiga® 4000 features the company's Advanced Graphics Architecture™ custom co-processor chip set that enables users to display and animate graphics in multiple resolutions at up to 256,000 colors from a palette of 16.8 million. The hardware features are driven by AmigaDOS Release 3, the newest version of the company's multitasking operating system, in combination with the machine's main processor, the Motorola® 68040. The unit will come standard with a 120-Mbyte hard drive, 6 Mbytes of memory, a dual-speed high-density floppy drive, and CrossDOS, which enables users to read and write to MS-DOS® formatted floppy and hard drives.

The DVSR 1000, an HDTV image sequence storage system developed by VTE, is being marketed by DVC Digitalvideo Computing GmbH, Seestr. 7, 8036 Hersching, Germany, 08152-3031, Fax: 08152-3661. The unit is a platform for digital image processing, HDTV research, HDTV simulation, and image coding. The product represents a thorough, continuous development of the multistandard image sequence storage systems. The video interfaces of the system are compatible with the company's previous models and the RAM memory can be upgraded to 8 Gbytes. Fourteen slots are available for optional input and output processors, allowing the basic system to be expanded to a multiuser system. The video processors can be operated fully parallel up to a combined data rate of 400 Mbytes/sec.

A series of completely preassembled, portable video edit systems was unveiled by Sony Corp. of America, Sony Dr., Park Ridge, NJ 07656, (201) 930-6432. The systems are small enough to be transported as baggage and can be readied for operation in less than 30 min. Three portable series configurations are being introduced as extensions to Sony's Select™ Systems prepackaged video edit system product line. Contained in four to eight ATA-rated shipping cases, the systems feature a selection of Sony's BVE edit controllers (BVE-600, BVE-910, and BVE-9100), analog or digital video switchers and audio mixers, and professional video monitors. Each system can be designed for compatibility with Hi8™, Betacam SP®, and D-2 composite digital videotape recording formats. The Select Systems line also includes six post-pro-

duction systems designed for permanent installation.



Toshiba America multiformat Hi8 3CCD camera/recorder

A multiformat Hi8 3CCD camera/recorder was added to the product line at Toshiba America's Professional Video Systems Group, 1010 Johnson Dr., Buffalo Grove, IL 60089-6900, (708) 541-9400. The TSC-200 combines, in a single nondockable unit, the portability and affordability of one-piece design with the recording versatility of larger, dockable cameras. With its new DeckLink multiformat adapter, the product is the only integral camera/recorder that also allows the user to record on other formats — such as Betacam, MII, or S-VHS — simply by connecting a cable. The unit's integral Hi8 deck will continue to record a backup tape. For sourcing images for computer enhancement, genlock capabilities allow the product to be synchronized into a complete system for multiple-camera shooting or special effects work.

The DS-DT900NS is a full-featured player/recorder available from JVC Professional Products Co., 41 Slater Dr., Elmwood Park, NJ 07407, (201) 794-3900, Fax: (201) 523-2077. The product, which has the ability to read and write SMPTE time code, includes absolute time conversion to SMPTE, which allows any DAT tape with absolute time to be utilized in a synchronization environment, whether in audio or video production. Other functions include SMPTE display on the front panel on playback. An "Intelligent AES" interface treats S/PDIF and AES/EBU digital signals properly. The interface also allows DAT IDs to be written across the AES digital input as audio passes the -60-dB threshold. Avid Technologies has written an efficient and economical interface for the unit, which allows full serial control of the audio recorder and digital audio transfer ("batch digitizing") between the media workstation and the recorder. The player/recorder can also be interfaced with CMX OMNI and Sony 9000 equipment.