

Section Meetings

Australia North, December 11, 1991 — Kerry Regan, The Editing Machine, gave a report on nonlinear editing systems, discussing the advantage of various techniques available and providing a hands-on demonstration of the Ediflex system.

He described the recent growth of alternative nonlinear systems, noting that their use is growing more rapidly in the U.S. than in Europe. He said that the systems use three main approaches: multiple tape cassettes, such as Ediflex and Montage; optical read/write disks; and desktop or data base systems that use compressed digitized images. He compared the high cost of optical disks, which provide optimum quality, with the much cheaper tape cassettes, which are needed in large numbers, and the almost negligible cost of data base storage.

He said that each system has ideal applications. The Ediflex approach is based on editing drama and provides a straight, narrative approach to long programs. The high-quality images enable editors to make accurate decisions on fine-picture details, such as blinking eyes, which are harder to see on data base systems such as Avid or EMC². However, the desktop systems showed up extremely well in demonstrations and are designed for shorter material, such as commercials and corporate videos. — Dominic Case (Section Manager), Colorfilm Pty Ltd.

Detroit, December 10, 1991 — The December meeting was held at General Television Network's (GTN) new \$3.5 million audio facility. The meeting, which was attended by 85 guests and members of the SMPTE and AES, opened with an overview tutorial on recording studio design and construction, presented by Russ Berger, Russ Berger Design Group. His discussion, which included information on the specific design of GTN's new audio wing, was followed by a question-and-answer session.

Jay Scott, GTN, then gave the audience a tour of the new facility and described the new equipment. The first stop, Audio Post (AP)-1, featured an SSL 6000 Series console configured for stereo-surround mixing and a 16-channel screen-sound hard-disk audio system. AP-2 had a Lexicon Opus digital workstation. The two audio post rooms and the audio off-line room were tied together via ethernet for music and effects selection and distribution. — Helge Blucher (Secretary/Treasurer), Pro-Vision, Inc.

Florida/Caribbean, December 4, 1991 — William Bakonyi, Panasonic Corp., dis-

cussed digital technology and interformats. He gave a comparison and analysis of various formats and demonstrated D-3 technology. The meeting, which was jointly sponsored by Broadcast International and Panasonic Broadcast Television, coincided with the first day of exhibits for the Image World International Exhibition and Seminar. Free exhibit passes were available to the 45 attendees. — Charles T. Brown (Secretary/Treasurer), NASA.

Houston, December 18, 1991 — Kevin Sherwood, an independent multimedia producer, explained and demonstrated the major functions of the Amiga Video Toaster, which works as a four-input video switcher, DVE, character generator, 3-D animation/paint system, and still store.

The unit's hardware/software combination allows each of the major functions to operate independently and simultaneously. The equipment meets FCC standards and RS-170A specifications. Its sampling rate is 14.31818 MHz with a luminance resolution of greater than 400 lines. The still store will hold from 50 to 1000 frames, depending on the hard-drive capacity at 4 to 8 fields. As part of the demonstration, Sherwood rendered a 3-D SMPTE animation while explaining and operating the other functions of the system.

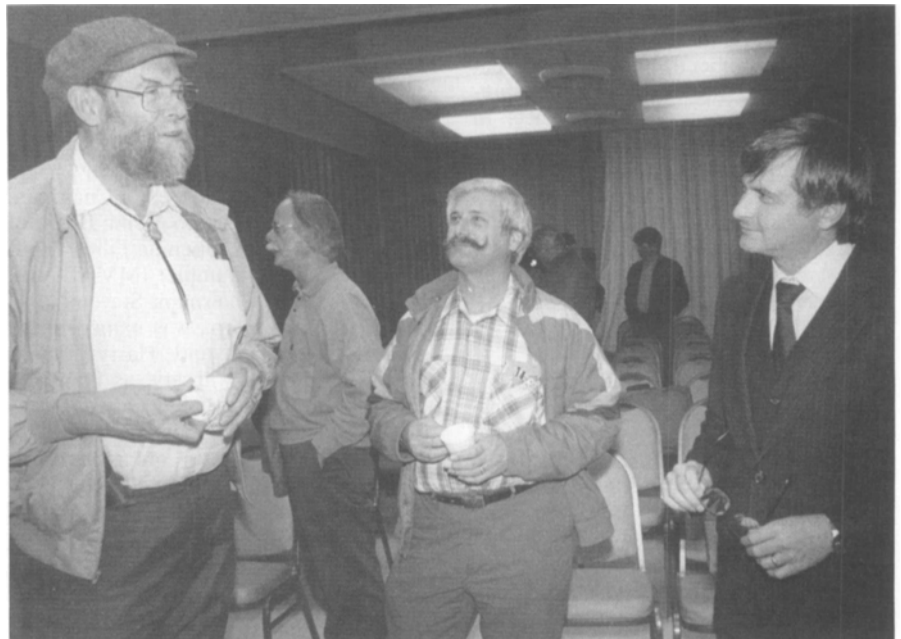
Following the presentation, which is the third in a series on computer-based media production equipment, the 35 attendees

were given a tour of the University of Houston's new Amiga video graphics lab and media studios, control room, and editing facilities. — Robert Musburger (Secretary/Treasurer), University of Houston.

Rochester, September 17, 1991 — The Annual Student Film/Video Festival, held in conjunction with the Rochester Audiovisual Association (RAVA), kicked off the 1991-1992 meeting series. The finalists' work, preceded by a reception for the award winners, was shown in the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) Webb Auditorium.

Over 70 films and videotapes were submitted by various students from educational institutions throughout New York State. Of those, 12 of the 22 winning entries were presented via large-screen video projection. The entries ranged from non-fiction and fiction to experimental works, and included many examples of both computer and cell animation. Winners received certificates of achievement and were given an opportunity to discuss their work with the audience.

The efforts of Film Festival Chairman Vince Slavin of the SMPTE, Dan Reardon of RAVA, Tom Zigon of RIT, and 11 judges from the local film and video community helped to make the event a great success with a very high turnout. — John J. Cerquone (Secretary/Treasurer), Sony Business and Professional Group.



Attendees of the San Francisco Section meeting with speaker Seth Shostak, SETI Institute. From left: Roy Trumbull, KRON-TV; Gerry Lovelace, Ampex, Inc.; and Shostak. Glen Pensinger, San Francisco State Univ., is in the background.

San Francisco, December 18, 1991 — “Looking for Life in the Universe with the Ultimate Microwave Link,” was discussed by Seth Shostak, Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence (SETI) Institute, at a meeting held at Ampex Corp. Shostak observed that for nearly a century mankind has inadvertently been sending radio waves, followed by television signals, into space. Some of the earliest radio signals reached 1000 stars. On the premise that some of these stars may have planets that are hosts to intelligent life, NASA will institute a decade-long project in 1992 to determine whether any intelligent life has received Earth’s radio/TV signals and is responding to these intercepted man-made electromagnetic transmissions.

He posed the question “Why haven’t we heard anything before this?” and then answered it by pointing out that the sensitivity of present-day radio receivers is hundreds of times more sensitive than previous products. Also, the enormous dish antennas, normally used for radio astronomy, will be devoted part-time to the SETI project. These antenna dishes greatly am-

plify the strength of received signals. The combination of highly sensitive radio receivers and powerful dish antennas create a powerful tool for the systematic radio monitoring of space.

During his presentation, Shostak discussed how scientists will be able to distinguish between natural radio emissions, such as pulsars, and transmission by intelligent life. Any signal received will be subject to in-depth analysis. If a signal is received it may well be from a source that is 40 light years away or farther. Thus, Earth’s reply to these signals would require an equal amount of time. This is a situation that requires infinite patience, long-term funding, and extended longevity. Shostak pointed out that we might find ourselves communicating with a machine supervised by another machine.

The 1000 ft diameter Arecibo dish antenna in Puerto Rico will be employed to scan large regions of the sky. Since the dish system is installed in a natural bowl it cannot be tilted. However, because of Earth’s polar rotation and its solar orbit, enormous areas of the heavens can be surveyed.

The Very Large Array (VLA) antenna system in the continental U.S. utilizes mobile dishes located on legs of a track system. Using computers, the dishes may be positioned far apart and their signals combined so that, in effect, the reception of an antenna dish miles in diameter is achieved.

The 35 attendees were highly responsive to the presentation, which was followed by a lively question-and-answer period. — Vernon L. Kipping (Chairman), Consultant.

Soviet Union, November 25, 1991 — Over 100 people attended the November meeting, which focused on imaging technology. Satoru Honjo, Fuji Photo Film Co., discussed imaging technologies in the U.S. and Japan, approaches to imaging systems design, the psychological aspect of image observation, and the future of imaging technologies. The meeting, which lasted over three hours, included a discussion that involved over 30 people. — Eleonora L. Vinogradova (Section Chairman), NIKFI.

News

Joseph A. Flaherty, CBS, Inc., was inducted as one of the 60 charter members of the Broadcasting Magazine Hall of Fame in Washington, D.C. He was recognized as the person most responsible for the development of electronic news gathering (ENG) and the promotion of HDTV, as well as for his key role in mobilizing the international engineering community. Flaherty, who is a Fellow of the SMPTE, was the recipient of the 1975 Technical Emmy, the 1979 Montreux Achievement Gold Medal, and the 1983 NAB Engineering Award in recognition of his ENG concepts and implementation. During the 1980s, he was a leader in the development and the final passage of the first worldwide digital video standard. He was awarded an Emmy Citation for the CBS Mincam color TV camera, and in 1985 he won France’s highest decoration, the “Chevalier de l’Ordre National de la Legion Honneur.” In 1989 he was conferred the rank of Chevalier de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the Republic of France, accepted an Emmy Award for CBS for the development and installation of a digital computer automation system for television station and network use, and was presented with the



“Golden Mike Award for Technical Achievement” from the National Religious Broadcasters for his pioneering work in the development of HDTV.

James C. McKinney, chairman of the Advanced Television Systems Committee (ATSC), was named the winner of the National Association of Broadcasters’ (NAB) television engineering achievement award. McKinney was recognized for his involvement in the advancement of broadcast technology in both government and the private sector. Before joining ATSC, which is the industry standard-setting body for advanced TV policies such as HDTV, he worked as a deputy assistant to President Reagan and headed three major bureaus of the FCC. An SMPTE Fellow, he has participated in several presidential delegations including two USA/USSR summits, NATO, the United Nations General Assembly, and the Economic Summit.

Edward Edison and **Robert L. Hammett**, Hammett & Edison Consulting, were the winners of the radio engineering achievement award. The pair have pioneered several improvements in radio transmitters and antennas, including aerial antenna measurement techniques and computer methods for improving AM antenna systems. Ceremonies honoring the award recipients will be held at a luncheon on April 15 in Las Vegas, Nev., during the annual NAB convention.

Bill Burnsed, president of B & B Systems, has expanded his role to also serve as the company’s chief executive officer. He will continue with his current duties, as well as oversee overall corporate management and new business development.

David Bartalone was promoted to executive vice-president. In his new capacity, he is responsible for all phases of management from project bidding to testing and turnover. In related news, John Bradford was named managing director of the company.

Tim Slate was appointed marketing manager of video processing products by Tektronix Television Systems. He is responsible for developing and implementing strategies to expand the company’s existing video and audio synchronizer lines. Before assuming his current post, Slate served as project leader and senior design engineer for the company’s VS 211 PAL video synthesizer and the VS 210. Prior to that he was involved in the design engineering of the company’s 1750 waveform monitor/vector-scope, the 110-S video synchronizer, the TSG-170A NTSC test signal generator, and the TSG-271 test signal generator.

