

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.

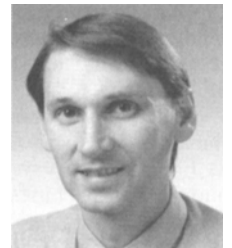
James C. McKinney, chairman of the Advanced Television Systems Committee (ATSC), was named the winner of the National Association of Broadcasters’ (NAB) television engineering achievement award. McKinney was recognized for his involvement in the advancement of broadcast technology in both government 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.



ANSI's 1992 Public Conference, "Using the Standardization Tool to Reach Objectives," will be held March 31 to April 1, 1992, at the Stouffer Riviere Hotel in Chicago. George Fisher, Motorola, will give the keynote address and John Hinds, AT&T International and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) will be the special guest speaker.

Two all-day sessions will be held during the event. On Tuesday, March 31, the topic will be "How to Increase Profits and Reduce Costs Using Standardization" and on Wednesday, the focus will be on "How to Improve Quality Through Standardization — Implementing ISO 9000." The sessions will be preceded by ANSI's Award Banquet on March 30. For more information on the conference, contact External Relations Department, ANSI, 11 W. 42nd St., New York, NY 10036.

Showlight '93, the international conference on lighting in the performing arts, will be held April 19 to 21, 1993, in Bradford, England. The event will take place at the twin venues of the National Museum of Photography, Film and Television, and the adjacent Alhambra Studio Theater.

The conference is aimed at lighting designers and associated professionals working or supplying the performing arts. It will provide a forum for discussing both new and established techniques and exchange-

ing ideas and experiences across the wide spectrum of entertainment lighting. In addition, there will be an exhibition area where lighting equipment and services will be demonstrated and companies and delegates can meet in an informal atmosphere.

The event is being organized by the National Illumination Committee of Great Britain on behalf of the International Commission on Illumination in Association with Yorkshire Television. For more information, contact Barbara Leach, Yorkshire Television, The Television Centre, Leeds LS3 1JS, England.

The 123rd Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America will be held May 11 to 15, 1992, at the Salt Lake City Marriott, Salt Lake City, Utah. The event will feature contributed papers in all branches of acoustics; a workshop on musical acoustics for teachers; a social and visitors program; technical tours of the Violin Makers School of America, Bigelow Organ Co., BYU Carillion, and other places of interest; and a tutorial lecture on digital audio. From May 10 to 11, there will be a short course on structural acoustics. A post-meeting tour of Utah national parks will take place May 15 to 17. For more information, contact the Acoustical Society of America, 500 Sunnyside Blvd., Woodbury, NY 11797.

IBTS-MeM-Mediatech '92, will be held October 15 to 19, 1992, in the South Pavilion of the Milan Trade Fair in Milan, Italy. The event will offer exhibits and educational forums. IBTS '92 is dedicated to electronic communication. Over 200 exhibitors will display systems, workstations, hardware and software products, apparatus for broadcasting and TV transmissions, audio and video professional equipment, multimedia communication products, and computer animation and graphics merchandise.

MeM '92 is a showcase where representatives from audio/video production houses, production centers, television studios, computer graphics facilities, multimedia services, and advertising agencies will share their experiences in the European market.

Mediatech '92 is composed of seminars, conferences, and reviews. It is dedicated to the deepening of professional themes, European marketing strategies, and the prospect of world development of technology. A contest, Premio Immagine '92, is designed to promote Italian image creativity. As part of this event, there will be presentations of the best works in film, television, or advanced electronic imagery. For more information on the event, contact General Secretariat, IBTS, 11 Via Domenichino, Milan 2014, Italy.

Obituaries

Robert N. Hurst

Robert N. Hurst, an Active Member of the Society, died on July 27, 1991. A longtime member of the SMPTE, Hurst had participated in the SMPTE Television Recording and Reproduction Technology Committee from 1966 until his death.

He began a lifelong career with RCA in 1952, participating in the early development of the NTSC color television system. He received a patent for this work, the first of 23.

He was honored for his contributions to the art of VTR servo mechanisms, as well as FM and video systems for the TR-22 and TR-70 machines. He originated the concept of what later became the TCR-100, the first VCR automatic playback of commercials, a machine that so revolutionized TV station operations that it received an Emmy Award.

As an author, he wrote numerous professional papers and was a contributing author to McGraw-Hill's *Television Handbook*. His book *Introduction to Junction Transistors* was widely published in the U.S. and overseas and was used by a great

many engineers to make the transition to semiconductor design. In addition, he was the recipient of the Business Press' Jesse H. Neal Award for a series of articles on digital television.

Hurst actively contributed to standards and documents for the SMPTE, IEEE, IEC, and CCIR. He had been serving on the ATSC subcommittee that will write the final HDTV recommendation to the FCC. He was also a member of the IEEE, Sigma Tau, and Tau Beta Pi.

Albert A. Duryea

Albert A. Duryea, a Life Fellow of the Society, died on December 12, following a long illness. A graduate of the New York University School of Engineering, he spent most of his professional life in the motion-picture industry, designing film processing equipment and laboratories.

He joined the SMPTE as an Associate Member in 1943, at which time he was employed by Consolidated Film Industries. In 1947, while working for Pathe Film Industries, he transferred to Active

Member status. During the 1960s he was named as a Fellow of the SMPTE, and became a Life Fellow in 1982. Before retiring in 1981, he was executive vice-president of Precision Film Labs, Inc. He later operated his own business, specializing as a motion-picture and photographic consultant.

D. Lisle Conway

D. Lisle Conway, a Life Member of the Society, died on September 2, 1991. He joined the SMPTE in 1951 while he was serving as director, photographic and special events, at WHEN, Meredith-Syracuse Television Co.

He retired August 30, from the Department of Educational Communications of the State University of New York Health Science Center, Syracuse. He had previously retired in 1975 after serving 20 years with the Broadcast Service Engineering Department of General Electric Co.

He lived in West Monroe, N.Y., for over 40 years, and had donated his time to design and build WSCQ-FM, the radio station for the Central Square school district, where he taught and supervised students who used the station. He was a charter member of the Syracuse Press Club, and a member of the AES and the Antique Wireless Association.