

News

The 1993 SMPTE Advanced Television and Electronic Imaging Conference will be held at the New York Sheraton Hotel and Towers in New York City, it was announced by Conference Vice-President L. John Spring, Jr., Allied Film and Video Services. The event, formerly known as the SMPTE Annual Television Conference, will take place February 5 - 6.

The 18th Montreaux International Television Symposium and Technical Exhibition will take place from June 10 - 15, 1993, in Montreaux, Switzerland. The event will open with the presentation of the Montreaux International Symposium Gold Medal Award and a keynote address by Robert Lucky, executive director of research, AT&T Bell Laboratories. The technical program will cover the latest innovations in broadcast and cable technology, including HDTV, progress in enhanced television systems, and the merging of the computer and television industries; a highlight session, "Television — A Force for Unification," will also be offered. Two innovative programs have been added to this year's schedule: Advanced Technology Day will introduce work beyond products being carried out by laboratories around the world, such as flat-screen displays and opto and static storage of TV signals, and the Weekend Forum will deal with special topics of wide interest, including marketing, program, and management issues. Workshops covering

specialized topics will be held twice each day. The event will run concurrently with International Electronic Cinema Festival. For more information, contact Montreaux International Television Symposium and Technical Exhibition, P.O. Box 97, Rue du Théâtre 5, Montreaux 1820, Switzerland.

UCLA Extension has announced two short courses aimed at those involved in information distribution. "Data, Speech, Image and Video Compression: Principles, Applications and Standards," will be offered August 17-21. The course will help registrants develop the fundamental principles, techniques, and algorithms used in current and proposed applications. The session will include a detailed discussion of existing and developing standards for speech, audio, facsimile, images, video, and HDTV. The instructor is Jerry Gibson of the Department of Electrical Engineering, Texas A&M University.

"User-Interface Design for Interactive Multimedia Systems," to be held September 28 - 30, is designed for managers, producers, developers, and designers who conceptualize, configure, or implement multimedia user interfaces. The course will present the overall interactive design common to the creation of first-quality user interfaces for multimedia systems. The instructor is Tyler Blake, American Interactive Media. For more information, contact UCLA Extension,

Short Course Program Office, 10995 LeConte Ave., Ste., 542, Los Angeles, CA 90024-2883.

Consolidated Film Industries announced that its 65mm negative developer has successfully passed all its tests and is now processing 65mm camera-original negatives. The processor, which runs at 90 ft/min, is one of the most advanced machines of its kind. The first production being run on the machine is *Voyages*, a film being shot at locations around the world for C-360, Inc., a nonprofit educational film consortium. The production, which celebrates the spirit of exploration, is an official project of the U.S. Columbus Quincentenary Jubilee.

Roy Moore has been appointed manager of engineering services at Bexel Corp., where he is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Engineering Services Division. Moore, who most recently held the position of engineering manager at KPIX-TV in San Francisco, has over 25 years of television and radio engineering experience. He is a two-time winner of the Emmy Award for Technical Achievement.



Obituaries

Charles P. Ginsburg

Charles P. Ginsburg, pioneer of videotape recording, died of pneumonia on April 9, 1992, in Eugene, Oreg. He was 71. Ginsburg was the leader of the engineering team that produced the world's first practical videotape recorder. This machine was responsible for the complete revolution in television broadcasting that occurred since it was first unveiled in April 1956.

Ginsburg was born in San Francisco, Calif., on July 27, 1920. He graduated from San Jose State College in 1948 with a B.A. in engineering and mathematics. Ginsburg was employed as an engineer at radio station KQW in San Jose when he met Walter Selsted, chief engineer of the

small Ampex Electric Co. of San Carlos, Calif. At the time, the Ampex Co., founded by Alexander M. Poniatoff, was building a line of excellent audiotape recorders. It was decided late in 1951 to start a videotape recorder project using a rotating head based on the ideas of Marvin Camras of the Armour Institute of Technology. Ginsburg was hired in December 1951. He was soon joined by a young part-time engineering student, Ray Dolby. The project was interrupted several times, for a variety of reasons including the loss of Dolby for army service for a year. By 1954 Ginsburg had gathered a superb team that included Dolby, Charles Anderson, Alex Maxey, Fred Pfost, and Shelby Henderson.

The close-knit crew invented and developed the first videotape recorder in the

world. It ran at the relatively slow speed of 15 in./sec and had four features that are now part of every videotape machine: a rotating drum that allows the heads to scan the tape at a high rate of speed, a frequency-modulated signal system that permitted recording of video signals from DC to 4.2 MHz, a signal system of modulation and demodulation of the video signal, and a control track to keep the rotating heads locked to the tape transport system. There was also room on the tape for an audio and cue track. At the time there were two other major companies trying to develop a videotape machine. One was led by Harry F. Olson of RCA and another by the BBC Research Laboratories. They both were using high-speed linear approach that consumed enormous amounts of tape to get sufficient head