

Section Meetings

Detroit January 10, 1995

The first speaker at the January meeting, held at WJBK Channel 2, was John F. X. Browne of John F. X. Browne Associates and former five-time governor of the Central Region, who gave the 29 attendees an update on where HDTV now stands. In 1994 test were done in the Carolinas under various terrain conditions. Data streams were transmitted and the bit error rate averaged over 20-sec periods. Although this would be a reasonable test parameter using analog signals, there is question of whether the losses could be much more significant with the averaging of digital signals over that time period. Many interested parties are looking forward to the summer tests, when video signals will be transmitted for the first time and results analyzed after this more typical broadcast situation. It appears that the project is about two years behind schedule.

The second part of the program was a discussion about and a demonstration of the Videssence studio lighting system. That company's David Hudson showed some of the different lights available, and lighting

director Bill Merrill used diagrams and a videotape to demonstrate how they could be used for dramatic, low-cost lighting effects without producing the heat that would be normal for the intensity of the light. The meeting was then adjourned to an adjacent studio to show how Channel 2 uses this lighting for their newscasts. — Harold L. Miller (Secretary/Treasurer), Harold Miller Associates

Hollywood January 11, 1995

The January meeting, "Troubleshooting Digital Audio — Tools, Tips, and Techniques" was held at the Gene Autry Museum. Speaker Bill Thompson, Tektronix, Inc., used overheads to present a tutorial on the fundamental concepts of the professional and consumer digital audio formats. He was careful to point out the differences between the requirements for both systems and followed with examples of common technical problems and/or symptoms that occur with digital audio systems; he also addressed specific concerns raised by members of the audience. Using a video projection unit, the audience

was able to visualize problems as they appeared to an audio/video engineer. New techniques and tools to troubleshoot these problems were the highlight of the evening. — Beverly M. Pasterczyk (Manager), Eastman Kodak Co.

New York January 17, 1995

Approximately 110 people attended the January meeting, held at the Museum of T.V. and Radio in New York City. Tim Spitzer, DuArt Film and Video, presented a tutorial on electronic post-production of feature films. He compared various strategies of electronic post-production, including the tools available for image evaluation, the different sets of data which need to be manipulated (such as time code, audio time code, Acmade code, and Keycode), and who in each of these approaches is responsible for that data manipulation. A panel of editors — Tim Squyers, Steve Hamilton, and Elliot Caplan — then discussed their experiences in electronic post-production of feature films. The meeting concluded with a lively question-and-answer period. — Tim Spitzer (New York Region Governor), DuArt Film and Video

Nordic January 25, 1995

More than 100 people were on hand at the half-day seminar on Digital Television, the second such seminar conducted by the section. The event was held at the new headquarters building of the Finnish Broadcasting Co. (YLE), Helsinki, Finland, and was sponsored by YLE and Nokia.

After opening remarks by Bengt Orhall, EMBO Mediakonsult, the first of two sessions, "Techniques," was presented. Section Manager Otto Mikkela, YLES Radio, presented "Standardization — Democracy or Chaos," which described the organizations involved in the international, regional, and national standardization of digital television as well as the work that has been done and the results that have been achieved. He was followed by Ulrich Reimers, Institut für Nachrichtentechnik, Technische Universität Braunschweig, who gave a comprehensive overview of the European Project on Digital Video Broadcasting (DVB), including its results to date and anticipated future perspectives. The second portion of the program was entitled "Emerging Services," and included a description of the advent of the first digital satellite services in Europe by Philip Haines, Eutelsat, and an explanation of the interactive services possible with digital television by Janne Juhola, Nokia.

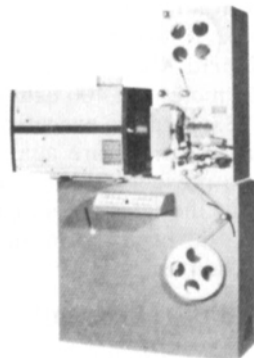
Photographer Lasse Svanberg, Media Desk Sweden, concluded the seminar with a discussion of the evolution of audiovisual techniques and its influence upon the common man. — Otto Mikkela (Manager), YLES Radio

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