

Introduction to Broadcast Video is a tutorial being offered by the Sacramento Section on Saturday, February 10, and Saturday, February 17, 1996, in the Multimedia Theater (Room 11) of the California State University campus in Sacramento; both sessions will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The first session will cover television history, the raster scanning system, television broadcast, and color. The second day will pick up where the first left off: the topic of color will be finished, and then discussions will move on to analog video measurements and digital video. For more information, contact Section Chair Dennis Brunnenmayer, Cedar Ridge Systems, P.O. Box 820, Cedar Ridge, CA 95924-0820, (916) 477-9015.

The International Film & Video Workshops, Rockport, Me., will open a satellite campus in the spring in the Monastery Sant'Anna in the Tuscany countryside. The new European Film Center will offer 30 one-week workshops and master classes in cinematography, directing, writing, producing, and camera work. While most of the Tuscany Film Workshops are for working film and video professionals, there are also introductory workshops for those just entering the industry. The workshops begin May 5, 1996, and will run for six weeks. A catalog outlining the program is available by phone, fax, or e-mail; contact The Film Workshops, P.O. Box 200, 2 Central St., Rockport, ME 04856, tel: (207) 236-8581; fax: (207) 236-2558; e-mail: MEWorkshop@aol.com.

SMPTE's World Wide Web Page Updated

The Society's home page on the World Wide Web has been expanded to include more information about its publications, including the *SMPTE Journal*. A complete list of the publications available from the SMPTE can now be accessed via the Internet, with an order form that allows to e-mail your order directly to Headquarters.

In addition, every abstract printed in the *Journal* during 1995 is available to Web readers. With a few simple clicks, you can receive the titles and summaries from all tutorials and technical papers, starting with the January 1995 issue. SMPTE's site on the World Wide Web — which can be reached at <http://www.smpte.org> — is continuously being improved and updated to provide you with the most comprehensive and current information about the Society.

61-Year Member Visits SMPTE

On December 6, 1995, SMPTE Headquarters had the pleasure of welcoming the person believed to be its longest-serving member, **Thomas W. Willard**, to its offices. Willard joined the SMPE in 1934 and has faithfully remained with the Society through its many incarnations.

Professing a love for filmmaking that dates back to his childhood, Willard purchased his first motion-picture camera in 1932. At that time, the 16mm format was still considered to be for amateur filmmakers, but Willard became determined to upgrade its performance for professional use. He launched an enterprise that at times employed scientific methods that rivaled, if not surpassed, the technology being implemented in Hollywood. Often, he served as his own director and cameraman. Within a year, his success led to the formation of Willard Pictures, which eventually became Willard Pictures, Inc.

His desire to create a fade effect on the positive-only 16mm film brought him to the Society of Motion Picture Engineers in 1934, which exposed him to a method of lowering the films into tubes of dye in order to produce the fade. Within the next five years, format ceased to be an issue as many of 16mm's shortcomings were overcome, and both the 16mm and 35mm formats were being used extensively.

Willard's filmmaking projects, both with Willard Pictures and as a consultant after he sold the company in 1955, took him all over the world. In 1936, he experimented with a new film, Kodachrome, while filming the bougainvillea framing the gate of the American University of Beirut in Lebanon and at the Parthenon in Greece. Semicontinuous production for the United Fruit Co. between 1939 and 1965 took him to the tropics of Guatemala, Honduras, and Costa Rica. Closer to home, Willard Pictures was behind the mass production of training films for the U.S. Navy during World War II.

Around 1941, Willard was invited to the CBS offices in New York to see demonstrations of the network's experiments in color television and subsequently became CBS's supplier of

the film necessary to continue the research before it was interrupted by the war. When the country adopted RCA's compatible color system in the 1950s, Willard Pictures produced a film for NBC that showed the effects available to TV directors. The transition from film to video was one deemed "perfectly natural" by Tom Willard, as his company jumped with both feet into the production of television commercials.

The Navy was not the only armed forces branch Willard served. Work for the Air Force from 1955 to 1960 included producing motion pictures for the surveillance of the design, manufacture, and testing of intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs). Top-secret filming on both coasts detailed inertial guidance — the instrumentality that tells a weapon or a vehicle where it is at any moment in any part of the world. During that time, Willard also photographed Cape Canaveral, in the early days of NASA and the beginning of the country's move toward space exploration.

During the 1970s and 1980s, as a consultant, Willard witnessed the evolution of electronic media. He became affiliated with the American Science Film Association and consulted with the American Management Association for their management films. He was the designer of a seminar for Drexel University (Philadelphia) entitled "Audio Visual Communications for Executives."

Now 88 years old, Willard and his wife live in Dobbs Ferry, N.Y. He still keeps up with some of his colleagues, but does so more on a personal basis than a professional one. This pioneer in the use of 16mm film still pursues a number of hobbies, among them ballroom dancing.

— Aileen Moroney

Note: As the Society celebrates its 80th anniversary this year, we're interested in hearing from more of our long-term members. Contact Headquarters at 595 W. Hartsdale Ave., White Plains, N.Y., 10607, and share some of your industry experiences with our readers!