

Section Meetings

Atlanta March 11, 1996

The Panasonic warehouse was the site of the March meeting, held jointly with the SBE. Some 62 attendees observed the assembly location for the International Broadcast Center for the 1996 Summer Olympic Games. The center's engineering manager, Dennis Brown, gave astounding statistics regarding the number of people, as well as the time, space, and resources that are involved in producing and broadcasting an event like the Olympics. The facility, which will be entirely composite analog, will be responsible for supplying good-quality pictures and sound from every camera at every venue to every world broadcaster. When the Olympics are over, chainsaws and front-loaders will dismantle and remove the entire facility from the World Congress Center in four days in order to make room for another event. Questions from the attendees ranged from cable specifications to contingencies for fire emergencies. — Kathleen Wood

(Secretary/Treasurer), Grass Valley/
Tektronix

Detroit February 13, 1996

Twenty-four members and guests were on hand for the February meeting, held in Studio One of WDIV-TV. Mike Waidson, Snell & Wilcox, discussed standards conversion, focusing on the interface between proliferating formats. He talked about the problems involved as the standards industry expands worldwide and the need for international program interchange grows. With this growth comes the need to convert material among all the world's broadcast standards, whether conventional, widescreen, or high-definition. Waidson also discussed the need for a transparent signal path between these otherwise incompatible formats and explained the decoding and encoding involved. He gave the attendees some insight into the digital and analog component interfacing and the analog component tolerances. Using an

overhead projector, he showed diagrams of one possible orderly arrangement of television studio equipment utilizing different standards and connected in such a way that signals would not recross boundaries particularly between composite and component areas, more often than necessary. After a question-and-answer period, Waidson showed samples of conversion equipment. — Harold L. Miller (Secretary/Treasurer), Harold Miller Associates

Detroit April 9, 1996

"Update on HDTV Broadcasting," presented by John F. X. Browne, John F. X. Browne & Associates, was the subject of the April meeting. Browne has been involved in committee work on HDTV for several years and is currently serving as chair of the AFCCE Committee on Advanced Television Systems (ATV/HDTV). While the final committee report has still not been published, the Grand

Toronto Presents "The Movie Experience"

Some 105 registrants came to Deluxe Toronto Mixing Studios to participate in "The Movie Experience," presented by the Toronto Section on March 8 and 9, 1996. This is the third "experience" presented in Toronto; it was preceded by "The Post Experience" and "The TV Experience."

Participants, who came from the U.S. and throughout Ontario, were guided through the different phases and roles people play in making a feature film that is seen theatrically, then on pay TV or videocassette, and finally on a national specialty TV channel.

Alliance Communications supplied the 35mm screening print of *Johnny Mnemonic*, as well as trailers for use as breaks between speakers and a few prizes for draws that occurred throughout the event. Trailers were also supplied by Columbia, Tristar, and Universal Pictures. The "Experience" bag, mug, and program booklet, along with a copy of the screenplay and original novella, were given to each registrant and guest speaker. A tour of the Deluxe facilities, a reception, and Saturday lunch were other highlights of the seminar.

Michael Quast served as host and inter-

viewer, as he had for the previous "Experiences." He was very successful in getting the speakers to share their insights into the business, as well as to part with a few good tidbits of celebrity trivia.

Among the guest speakers were a screen writer, an executive producer, a producer, talent agents, a director, a director of photography, a post-production supervisor, a sound mixer, a processing lab representative, a distributor, an exhibitor, a pay and pay-per-view program manager, a videocassette program supplier, and a specialty channel programmer.

The committee who put together "The Movie Experience" consisted of Diane Cappelletto, Kodak; Brad Fortner and Kathy Gee, Ryerson Polytechnic University; John Howells and Tony Di Cicco, Sony; Stephen Pumble and Linda Grubb, IMMAD Broadcast Services; and Harvey Rogers, Showcase Television. Sponsors in the Gold category included Kodak Canada, Fuji Photo, and IBM Canada. Many other sponsors, who were in the Silver category, supplied financial support or goods and services to the event. — Harvey L. Rogers (Chairman, The Movie Experience), Showcase Television



From left to right, Tony Di Cicco, Harvey Rogers, and Diane Cappelletto at "The Movie Experience."