

designed Hi-Gain Dome Screen required for the Race for Atlantis thrill ride. He explained how 400 panels are manufactured to make up an Omnimax screen. Most Imax patrons are surprised to learn that the screens are not pure white because that causes the image to wash out. Instead Hi-Gain screens employ barium sulphate to give them their enhanced characteristics. Since the different panels are not completely homogeneous, one of Lee's responsibilities was tuning the screen during installation. To accomplish this he used a computer to sort out deviations in each panel, carefully matching the placement of panels and cautiously putting the most reflective panels along the edges for more brightness.

The final speaker of the evening was Lorne Orleans, also from Imax. Orleans directed Asteroid Adventure, Imax's second thrill ride. He noted that on a cost per minute basis, ride films are among the most expensive films made. He recalled reading an article which noted that the 3-1/2 min film that makes up Imax's Back to the Future ride cost about \$16 million to produce. This is equivalent to a feature film budget of about \$600 million.

As a director, Orleans shared his observations for those considering working in the medium. He noted that a point of view shot is required from beginning to end in a thrill ride film. Cutaways, common in most other motion imaging media, do not work well in this environment. Because

image quality is important, high-definition images, such as those created by Imax, are perfect for thrill rides. He also noted that it takes a small amount of motion to create a sensation of motion and peripheral vision is important to the effect. He said most of the research into the visual phenomena associated with thrill rides has been conducted by the military and poor programming of the motion base can cause nausea. During the creation of Asteroid Adventure, he employed a puppeteer to program the movements of the base and gain acceptable realism for riders.— Brad Fortner, (Promotions Adviser), Rogers Communications Centre, Ryerson Polytechnical University

News

Program for TV Montreux 1999 Announced

Montreux has announced the program for the 1999 International Television Symposium and Technical Exhibition to be held on June 10-15, 1999 in Montreux, Switzerland. The five-day event has been designed to provide every business and senior management executive with answers to questions concerning television's transition to the all-digital era.

This year's 21st Symposium features the following technical sessions:

Program Production

Digitization of the production process has presented the producer with new creative options and technical challenges to implement them. This session will focus on the many issues involved, including image acquisition in a 16:9 aspect ratio; the processing of digital streams with different bit rates for HDTV and SDTV productions; simultaneous HDTV/SDTV production; management and accessing of content libraries and program production in the virtual studio.

Post-Production

This session will cover the technical and business issues faced by the post industry in the three global regions, owing to the implementation of DTV and HDTV programming. Topics include how to post for worldwide applications and meet the requirements of terrestrial, DTH and cable; innovations in HDTV post-production; up- and down-conversions; servers and networks for post-production; and digital and audio post and distribution of multichannel audio programs.

Cable

Cable's wide bandwidth has made "TV of abundance" a reality. In order to retain that advantage in the hybrid digital and analog world, many technical and economic issues must be resolved. Experts in the field will present eight comprehensive sessions covering digital service implementation; Intranet; the media terminal; regulatory environment; marketing; research; HDTV; advanced analog services; and interactive services.

Terrestrial Broadcasting

To survive in a competitive multichannel marketplace, digital terrestrial broadcasting must overcome technical, regulatory, and marketing challenges. This session will address topics such as experience with the ATSC, DVB, and DVB-J broadcast systems in the transmission of HDTV and SDTV; cost aspects of network and station operations; the regulatory environment; and value added services including data broadcasting and the Internet.

Satellite Broadcasting

This session will update the status and prospects for various satellite services. A comparative assessment of distribution platforms in terms of the digital technology and economics involved, and DTH satellite delivery services of local terrestrial broadcast channels, datacasting, multicasting, multimedia, and other services will be covered.

Interactive Media Services

Reacting to the intense competition for consumer attention, programs and data services are now being provided via the personal computer by program providers,

broadcasters, and cable operators. Four sessions will examine this movement focusing on the operation of interactive services; personalizing broadcasting through the Internet; and mobile interactive broadcasting. Internationally recognized business and technology experts will also focus on leveraging existing businesses to add value through the creation of new interactive services.

Workshops and News Operations

The workshops, geared toward industry experts, will deal with specific matters in the areas of production, post-production, cable and terrestrial delivery, and interactive services. The news session will cover the gathering of news from different sources and its transport to the main facility; and preparing material on a "virtual" desktop for on-air use and for repurposing and using all techniques, from the simplest to the most sophisticated for the most attractive presentation.

Future Technology and Management Forums

The Future of Technology Forum will feature two sessions focusing on the new digital world for television. Topics of discussion include the impact of emerging technology on the whole business chain and the cross fertilization between the elements. Also discussed will be the future technology applied to the storage, archiving, and retrieval of program material, and the digital data structure and software which support it.

This year's management forum will carry the theme "First Management Reports on Digital TV and HDTV Experiences Worldwide." Designed for business, cre-

ative, and technical executives, the weekend forum will include sessions covering cases for Digital TV Multiplex Broadcasting versus SDTV Broadcasting. A luncheon will also be held featuring industry professionals presenting lectures on current television issues.

Technical Exhibition

The Technical Exhibition will run from June 11 to 15. Manufacturers will present their latest innovative technologies, products, and systems.

For further information regarding the 21st Montreux International Symposium, contact P.O. Box 1451, Rue du Theatre 5, CH-1820 Montreux, tel: +41 21 963 32 20, fax: +41 21 963 88 51. For exhibition information, contact tel: +41 21 963 52 08, fax: +41 21 963 5209, e-mail: vanhoorn@symposia.ch.

Evertz Appoints Distributors in Brazil and Australia

In an effort to strengthen marketing activities, Evertz Microsystems, Ltd., has appointed Tacnet Electronica, Ltd., and Quinto Communications Pty, Ltd., as product distributors for Brazil and Australia, respectively.

The two distributors will cooperate with various companies to promote Evertz products. Located in Rio de Janeiro, Tacnet will work with national broadcasters Redo Globo, SBT, Rede Bandeirantes, Rede Record, and a number of production and post-production houses. Quinto Communications will deal with the Australian

Broadcasting Corp., and Special Broadcasting Services, as well as production and post-production houses.

New Company Focuses on DTV

Several senior executives have joined forces to establish Omneon Video Networks, a new company targeting digital television networks.

According to Omneon president Larry Kaplan, the company intends to provide broadcasters, cable TV networks, program distributors, and post-production companies with new products based on advanced compression and networking technologies. The company was formed by Kaplan, Don Craig, vice-president; SMPTE Governor Ed Hobson, vice president of marketing and sales; and Mike Gilbert, vice-president of operations.

The founders all have extensive experience in the television industry. Kaplan was most recently senior vice-president of Sony Electronics, Broadcast and Production Systems. He was responsible for the company's broadcast and production equipment and their System Integration Center. Craig led the teams that received technical Emmys for the development of the Tektronix VM700 automated television test system, and most recently, the Profile digital disc recorder. Hobson was Sony's vice-president of production system and professional audio. Gilbert headed Sony's Advanced Development Center in San Jose and led teams that developed and supported the software for several large multichannel television facilities.

Moore and Livingston are Promoted by Panasonic

Panasonic Broadcast and Television has announced several promotions and organizational changes in its unit company, Panasonic Broadcast and Digital Systems. Among those promoted were SMPTE members Tom Moore and Phil Livingston.

Moore, a 12-year Panasonic veteran, was named vice-president of sales. He is responsible for all broadcast and professional video sales. Prior to his appointment, Moore was director of major accounts.

Livingston was promoted to vice-president of engineering support and training. The 20-year Panasonic executive's responsibilities include customer technical and engineering support, industry relations, and training. Livingston was previously director of digital sales at Panasonic.

Deyo Joins the Harris Corp.

SMPTE member Tom Deyo has joined Harris Corp. as director of television field sales for the U.S. and Canada. Deyo, a 24-year veteran of the broadcasting industry and a specialist in digital television, will coordinate field sales efforts to assist broadcasters with the seamless conversion of studio and RF systems to digital technology.

Prior to joining Harris, Deyo was employed by Sony Corp. as regional manager for the company's Business and Professional Group in Chicago and Los Angeles.

Obituaries

Denis A. Courtney

The Society sadly announces the death of former SMPTE Executive Director Denis A. Courtney. The long-time SMPTE employee died on April 25, 1998 at his home in Greenwood, SC at the age of 83.

Courtney climbed the position ladder at SMPTE, starting as assistant to the Editor of the *Journal* (then Victor Allen) in 1953, and peaked as Executive Director in 1968.

In 1954, Courtney took over the management of advertising, a new venture for the *Journal* at that time, as well as various other editorial responsibilities. As Advertising and Conference Manager, he built up the number of equipment exhibits, which is now a major attraction at the Society's Technical Conference.

While a member of the editorial department, Courtney worked closely with SMPTE Executive Secretary (the title



Denis A. Courtney

would later change to Executive Director) Boyce Nemeec and his successor Colonel Charles S. Stodter. During that time he acquired extensive experience and a comprehensive understanding of SMPTE affairs and the requirements of the posi-

tion, which led to his appointment as Executive Director by the Executive Committee. The Headquarters group grew from 8 employees to a staff of 27.

Closely acquainted with many of the Society's outstanding personalities for a long period of time, Courtney was able to give a candid assessment of the 13 SMPTE Presidents that served during his tenure.

The ambiance of SMPTE Headquarters reflected Courtney's personality. The warmth, genuine affection, and respect that employees had for each other, as well as their dedication to allotted tasks was a tribute to his quiet influence.

During World War II, he served in the U.S., England, and France. He attained the rank of Lieut. Colonel and spent four years in the postwar occupation of Germany. Courtney wrote an unpublished memoir of his World War II experience as well as notes toward a survey of Gothic