

Section Meetings

Hong Kong

March 12, 1999

The Hong Kong Section and Radio Television Hong Kong jointly organized a seminar, "Digital Terrestrial Television Broadcasting for Hong Kong—Systems Debate." With 120 people in attendance, the four-hour seminar took place in Studio One at Radio Television Hong Kong.

In the first session, three overseas guest speakers, Robert Graves, ATSC, Osamu Yamada, DiBEG, and Peter MacAvock, DVB, provided concise technical information on the digital terrestrial television standards adopted in the U.S., Japan, and Europe, respectively. During a panel discussion, moderator Tim Kelly, Television Broadcasts Ltd., invited questions from the floor. Comparisons of the three standards were made in relation to indoor and outdoor reception performance, mobile reception, single frequency network, interoperability, audio systems, etc.

The two local terrestrial broadcasters, Asia Television Limited and Television Broadcasts Limited, rendered support to organizing the event. Seminars on similar topics are planned in the future. Due to favorable responses from members and the technical trials on digital terrestrial television currently taking place in Hong Kong.—Noel Leung, Section Manager

Pasadena City College

Student Chapter

March 9, 1999

With 19 in attendance, the March meeting was called to order by Brian Klepek, student chairperson. After brief announcements Klepek welcomed guest speaker Robert Sheaffer, Sunset Post, who gave an overview of his experience in telecine assistance. Sheaffer's main responsibility is to help the colorist produce film transfers to the client's specifications. In many instances, he must stay two steps ahead of the colorist to allow time for proper setup of the process. He explained that attention to detail is extremely important when it comes to labeling reels and tapes, and stressed that film must be handled carefully when being cleaned. Sheaffer illustrated the telecine process; his flow chart depicted the Rank, which is where film is placed. Every camera setup is different, and therefore allows many configurations to accommodate different film formats. The Rank is followed by a Color Corrector, which controls the film. For audio signals a noise reducer is used, as well as a Still Store to

collect and match frames for reference. All of the equipment is used in conjunction, to output the desired tape format.

Sheaffer's responsibilities also cover daily's, which are television shows produced on a regular basis. His transfer of the material is the first copy the client gets for editing purposes. He makes preparations to ensure that time codes and key codes on the film are synchronized. In some cases daily's are transferred to Digi-Beta for online editing, and to 3/4-in. for offline editing.

Sheaffer also works on feature film transfers. Features deal with many versions such as full frame, letter box, 16 x 9, 4 x 3, NTSC, and Pal. However, signals can be routed or patched for many videotape formats. Sunset Post has six telecine bays, a duplication tape room, and a master editing room where films are output to: D-1, D-2, Digi-Beta, 3/4 in., Beta SP, or D-5 high-definition. Sheaffer distributed film samples and handouts on the equipment he uses and their output signals. He was asked about retransfers from archives, and discussed a process called the Digital Restoration System that allows removal of artifacts and dirt from a print digitally. While on the topic of audio, Sheaffer showed a film sample that had optical audio on the print itself and transfers directly from the Rank.

He encouraged students to ask questions in their job environments and to demonstrate leadership. Paths to jobs in the telecine field can include vault personnel, quality control person, or tape operator; advanced knowledge of editing will help

SMPTE SECTION CALENDAR

Rocky Mountain

For further information contact Section Chair Fred Baumgartner, TCI, tel: (303) 486-3946, fax: (303) 486-3891, e-mail: baumgartner.fred@tcinc.com

Dates for future meetings:

June 7-11: SBE Leadership Skills Seminar. Indianapolis, IN

June 16: Ceavco Program. Time and topic to be announced

July 14: Ninth Annual Picnic at Lookout Mountain

August 18: Backup Power. Dennis Roundtree, Plannergy, Inc.

September 15: Burst Communications Program

October (TBA): Rocky Mountain Film and Video Expo

November (TBA): Ceavco Chapter Elections

December 15: Lunch at NDTA, 12 noon

when it comes to telecine assistance. Every effort by the assistant is focused on picture quality, sharpness, scene matching, and contrasts, and this experience leads to opportunities for becoming a colorist. Sheaffer explained that sometimes working extra hours gives one the time to learn something new.—Brian Klepek, Student Chairperson

Obituary

Howard Bell

Howard Bell passed away, on April 5, 1999, at age 86. Bell began his career with Mole-Richardson Co. in 1935 as an assemblyman on the Carbon Arc Light product line. He then became a generator operator on various motion picture locations and later moved to Outside Sales where he served as vice-president of sales until his retirement in 1997.

Bell was a member of various industry organizations including the Local 40 Union, the American Society of Cinematographers, and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Science. He had been a member of SMPTE since 1956.

