



New York Section meeting in June. (l-r) Lloyd Forcellini, DuArt Film and Video; Robert Goodman; and Section Manager Chuck Roback.

Goodman also presented a twilight scene, which became darker with increased camera gain. This also increased the noise, which can be expected, but the scene would go out of focus.

The next speaker, Lloyd Forcellini, president of technical productions at DuArt Film and Video, demonstrated the projection of different types of video cameras to film, such as the Sony DigiBeta, DV (XL1, PD150, 3000) Beta SP, and footage of 24p from Sony's new multiformat HDCAM F900 camera. Forcellini told attendees not to be discouraged by Goodman's presentation, because it illustrated ten different companies with the same footage interpolating the video, with varying results. He pointed out that consulting the post-production house before shooting a video can make scanning-to-film a less painful process and result in better quality output, by shooting the video correctly and using the right camera for budget. He explained further that the footage was shot with digital Betacam, which has a 422 YUV 2:1 compression and much less aliasing and motion artifacts than DV footage at 4:1:1 YUV 4:1 compression, due to the temporal resolution of the 4:1 compression.

The meeting ended with a Q and A session.—Chuck Roback, Section Manager

Rochester May 8, 2001

The program was held at Rochester's legendary, movie-theme-decorated Animatus Studio, where 21 attendees were lucky to find seats for "The Making of Hand Drawn and Digital Cartoons." Fred Armstrong, founder of Animatus and an animator since 1974, introduced Dave Puls, creative director, and Mike Boas, webmaster/flash animator.

Animatus began operation in 1989 with an Oxberry 16mm, 35mm, and Super 35 Filmmaker camera for production of television commercials and industrial films. Armstrong reminisced about Super 8 film and U-matic tape, recalling how a Lion Lamb frame-by-frame recorder met their needs until they moved to a more stable PC-based-platform with in-sync Speed Razor and a DPS PVR board. The same compact studio space—including what Armstrong calls his "cast-iron camera museum"—also boasts five networked workstations for a broad offering of productions. Along with traditional commercial work, Animatus is producing the Flash animated "Dinner Dogs" musical short for children and the self-stylized, hand-drawn cartoon "Derf," for more mature audiences. From storyboard to exposure sheets, Derf the misbehaving Viking takes shape through the use of up to 100 layers in Celmaton AXA animation software, with lip-sync kept intact with traditional "bar" sheets. The Animatus Studio staff conducted several demonstrations of these projects for attendees. —John P. Weiksna, Section Chair



Obituaries

Earl "Mac" Mehaffey, a beloved member of the Bay Area video community, passed away on March 21 at his home in Emeryville. Mehaffey had been employed by Advanced Systems Group after its acquisition of General Electronics Systems Inc. (GESI) in July 2000. He was a loyal member of SMPTE and of the local Bay Area Broadcasters Organization.

Mehaffey had been part of the sales team at GESI since November 1989. Prior to that, he worked as a sales engineer in the broadcast division at Sony Electronics in San Jose from January 1986 until his departure to GESI. He may also be remembered as part of the RCA sales team.

In his earlier days, Mehaffey was the chief engineer at KTVK in Phoenix during some of the most exciting years in television, 1956 through 1977. He was a Korean War veteran.

Louis P. Rankine died on March 2, 2001, at age 62. Rankine was founder and CEO of Instar International Communication Corp., a film and video production company. He had a B.A. in film, television, radio, and journalism from Howard University and a M.A. in telecommunications from Michigan State University. During his career, Rankine worked as production manager of the Audio Visual Telecommunication Department at Howard University Hospital for eight years. He produced videotape programs on a variety of surgical procedures in addition to producing award-winning public relations and public information videotapes. He also worked as writer, lighting technician, and cameraman on many dramatic and documentary television productions in London, England.