

between. The result is a jumble of details with no useful emphasis on the important issue of comparative capability. No clear distinction is made between 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional digital animation; and image resolution and generation speed are given far too little attention.

A second major drawback is obsolescence. In a field which is developing so rapidly, no survey such as this can stay current for long. Yet, most

of the major computer animation systems in operation today, e.g., those of New York Institute of Technology, Information International Inc., Evans and Sutherland, University of Illinois, and Ohio State are not discussed; yet all of these have been in operation for several years.

In the remaining chapters of the second section, the author returns to subjects he evidently knows well. Especially good is the treatment of

videotape and video ("electronic") editing which covers both CDL and CMX systems.

In the final analysis, this book offers a valuable introduction to several areas of film and video production and editing; but it is not a useful guide to the growing array of computerized image synthesis systems. — *Jack Heyl*, Mathematical Applications Group, Inc., 3 Westchester Plaza, Elmsford, NY 10523



## Section Meetings

**Australia, 28 Sept.** — The meeting was held in the Club Room of the Legion Club at Wilmoughby, a suburb of Sydney, where Francis Lord read a paper entitled "Understanding the Zoom Lens of Today." Lord is one of the foremost authorities on photographic optics and is one of the proprietors of Angenieux Australia Pty. Ltd. The guest of honor was Bernard Angenieux who is paying a short visit to Australia. He is the son of Pierre Angenieux, founder of the Angenieux Company, manufacturer of world-famous lenses for photography and television.

The meeting was preceded by a dinner provided through the courtesy of Angenieux Australia and invitations had been sent to all SMPTe members in Australia and to special guests, including members of the Australian Cinematographers Society, and to film and television cameramen. There were 105 members and guests in attendance. Lord's paper was well received and a vigorous question-and-answer period went on for well over an hour with both Angenieux and Lord answering the questions. — James E. Pemble (Secretary-Treasurer), Agfa-Gevaert Pty Ltd., 4 Eastcote Rd., North Epping, Sydney, Australia, 2121.

**Chicago, 20 Sept.** — The meeting was held at NBC's Studio D with an attendance of 55 members and guests. The program was in two parts — the first on Trends in Camera Design and the second on Real Time Coding of Motion-Picture Film. The guest speaker was Jack Behrend of Behrends, Inc. He first discussed the new generation of film cameras — light, quiet, self-contained and flexible. As a demonstration the new Aaton camera was shown. In the second part of the program Behrend gave a special report on real time coding. Although real time coding has been a state-of-the-art technique for some time, it has not yet found its way into motion-picture production equipment. Recent developments such as the standardization of a system by the European Broadcast Union and the development of a numeric edge-numbering system are changing this. These advances are expected to make all computerized editing techniques available to film much more sophisticated than is currently the case with videotape. — Paul Markun, Douglas Film Industries, 10 West Kinzie St., Chicago, IL 60610.

**Detroit, 26 Sept.** — The meeting was held at Ford Motor Company's facilities in the World Headquarters Building in Dearborn with an attendance of 136 members and guests. Ronald Balousek of Producers Color Service presented

a paper entitled "Laser Color Film Recording," describing the laser color film recording system recently installed at Producers Color Service. His presentation was well illustrated with charts and photographs of the equipment. The consensus of the audience was that the resolution, grain and color saturation were good to excellent. Excerpts from an industrial videotape production — *A Special Power* — which had been converted to 35mm film were shown. Of special interest was a full showing of the recently exhibited television show, *King Tut*, which had been converted to 16mm. The audience was obviously impressed by the suppression of the line raster and the low SNR in both productions. — John D. Mayberry (Secretary-Treasurer), Ford Motor Co., Photomedia Dept., WHQ Bldg., Dearborn, MI 48121.

**Florida/Caribbean, 28 Sept.** — The meeting was held at the L. D. Pankey Institute for Advanced Dental Education in Miami with an attendance of 22 members and guests. The speaker was Robert J. Kerr of Du Pont Magnetic Products. Kerr, who has had some 30 years experience in the magnetic recording field presented an interesting program on the care and handling of 3/4-in videocassettes. He described, with the aid of slides, eight distinct aspects of the handling of cassettes, explaining how careful adherence to his eight rules would result in the elimination of most of the problems commonly encountered in the use of 3/4-in videocassettes, such as skew, jams, mistracking, etc. He discussed characteristics peculiar to 3/4-in videocassettes and provided some useful general information on helical recording. His talk was followed by a lively and rather lengthy question-and-answer period. Following the talk, Gus Menendez, Director, Bio-Dental Communications, conducted a group of members and guests on a tour of the extensive audiovisual facilities of the L. D. Pankey Institute. — Chris H. Lankester (Secretary-Treasurer), 320 North Luna Court, Hollywood, FL 33021.

**Houston, 15 Sept.** — The meeting was held at the ACA Recording Studios with an attendance of 35 members and guests. The program was on Sound and Sound Recording. The guest speaker was William D. Holford who provided a complete description and in-depth coverage of sound and sound recording. The program included demonstrations and a tour of the updated facilities of ACA — Frances Berger (Secretary-Treasurer), A\*V Corp.; home address: 2601 Bellefontaine, C116 East, Houston, TX 77025.

**Nashville, 22 Sept.** — The meeting was held at the WTVF studios in Nashville with an attendance of 30 members and guests. The speaker was John C. Wyatt of Harris Electronics, a member of the firm's Fiber Optics and Applications Group. The program centered around the application of fiber optics to analog and digital video and to voice and data transmission. Wyatt discussed the involvement of Harris Electronics in the development of fiber optics. Among other applications of fiber optics, Wyatt described their use in computer-to-computer, satellite instrumentation, telecommunications, and CATV distribution. He described the design considerations of fiber optics and some of the specific equipment used in fiber optics transmission. He discussed also the limitations of fibers and presented his ideas as to the future of fiber optics technology. — S. Lee Whitehurst (Secretary-Treasurer), WSM, Inc., P.O. Box 100, Nashville, TN 37202.

**Pacific Northwest, 7 Oct.** — The meeting was held at the KATU-TV Annex in Portland, Ore., with an attendance of 35 members and guests. There were three guest speakers — Steve Roth of Tektronix, Allen Anderson of KATU and Stan Bennett of Bennett Engineering. Roth presented a paper entitled "A New Precision TV Demodulator" authored by himself and Charles Rhodes which described the new television demodulator being developed by Tektronix. Roth explained the use of new components including surface acoustic wave filters for ideal wave shaping of television signals. Anderson's presentation was entitled "EEP (Electronic Field Production)." He discussed KATU-TV's use of mini-cameras and portable videotape recorders for field production of promos, TV spots, documentaries, etc. Bennett's presentation was a demonstration of the latest generation Ikegami HL77 camera. He used the new Angenieux 15:1 zoom lens in the camera for the presentation. A question-and-answer session was held after each presentation — C. Eugene Newcomer, Pacific Northwest Bell, 1200 Third Ave., Seattle, WA 98101.

**Rocky Mountain, 22 Sept.** — The meeting was held at the facilities of Computer Image in Denver with an attendance of 23 members and guests. Lee Harrison, founder of Computer Image, assisted by Ed Tajchman, Vice-President for Engineering, explained the beginnings of Computer Image and the goals of the company. He demonstrated the early work which led to the present generation of electronic animation equipment. The audience was then taken on a conducted tour of the facility where the group could view the equipment at work. The meeting was concluded with a demonstration on videotape of the most recent work being done with the company's two animators, CAESER and Scanimatic. The two systems, designed and built by Computer Image, have been in use for several years and are excellent examples of the state-of-the-art in television electronic animation. — Philip C. Vogel, Jr. (Secretary-Treasurer), Eastman Kodak Co., 5555 S. Trenton B-5, Denver, CO 80110.