

Industry News & Educational Activities

The Franklin Institute honored eight scientists at ceremonies held 2 November in the Benjamin Franklin National Memorial in the Institute. The Franklin Medal was awarded to Cyril Manton Harris, acoustical designer of over 100 concert halls and auditoriums. Godfrey N. Hounsfield, inventor of the computerized axial tomography diagnostic system received the Howard N. Potts Medal. William Oliver Baker was awarded the Delmer S. Fahrney Medal for his leadership in research for the telecommunications industry. Charles Kuen Kao was awarded the Stuart Ballantine Medal for his conceptual studies of lightguide communications. Stewart E. Miller also received the Ballantine Medal for his research contributions towards development of lightwave communications systems. Albert V. Crewe, inventor of the scanning transmission electron microscope was awarded the Albert A. Michelson Medal. William Anthony Krivsky, inventor of the argon-oxygen-decarburization process, received the Francis J. Clamer Medal. Norris Fitz Dow, inventor of extra-strong triaxial fabric, received the Edward Longstreth Medal.

Marconi Communication Systems Ltd., a GEC-Marconi Electronics Co., Marconi House, Chelmsford CM1 1PL, England, has been appointed the distributor for Orrox Corp.'s computerized CMX series of videotape editing systems. Under the terms of the agreement, Marconi will have virtual worldwide distribution rights for all CMX editing systems and exclusive United Kingdom distribution rights for Orrox's new modular CMX 340X system. The CMX 340X computer-assisted videotape editing machine has separate microprocessors for each machine plugged into the system. This approach frees the central processor to perform "house-keeping" and "look ahead" functions while the memory in the microprocessor keeps the device under its control busy doing what it is supposed to do. There are no significant pauses while the system waits for one action to finish before re-setting for a subsequent one.

Under terms of an earlier agreement with Ampex, Marconi will manufacture and market the Ampex range of 1-in helical videotape recorders as the MR1 and the MR10.

The World Premiere of Variations of Greek Themes, a cycle of songs from the poems of Edwin Arlington Robinson, set to music by composer Frank Lewin, took place 20 November at the Alice Tully Music Hall in New York City's Lincoln Center. The song cycle, commissioned by the Chamber Music Society, received a standing ovation from the audience of music lovers and music critics. Lewin is currently at work on an opera based on John Steinbeck's *Burning Bright*.

A world renowned composer, Lewin is also an authority on the technical aspects of sound. Author of a number of papers on music and sound, *Man and His Sound*, published in the *Journal* in 1968, was reprinted by the Society in a booklet that is still in print and still being requested. An earlier paper, published in four parts in the *Journal* in 1959, *The Soundtrack in Nontheatrical Motion Pictures*, was also reprinted and is still available.

Lewin teaches composition at the Yale University School of Music. Among his many publicly performed compositions is *Mass for the Dead* given its first performance during a memorial service for Robert F. Kennedy in the Chapel of Princeton University in 1969.

Alan Gordon Enterprises Inc. has been sold to three of the company's longtime executives according to an announcement by Vera Gordon who had held 100% of the company's stock since the death of her husband, Alan Gordon, the company's founder, in 1969. The new ownership team consists of the company President, Grant Loucks and senior Vice-Presidents Don Sahlein and Robert Kuhagen. Each of them has been with the company for 25 years. Alan Gordon Enterprises is a leading supplier of professional photographic equipment with headquarters at 5362 North Cahuenga Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91601. The company also has a major facility in the heart of Hollywood.

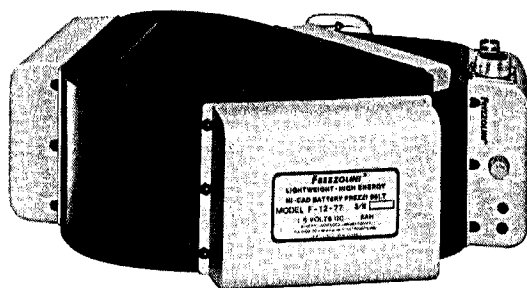
A new television camera tube having a limiting resolution of 1600 TV lines has been developed by Amperex Electronic Corp., a wholly owned subsidiary of North American Philips Corp, with headquarters at Slatersville, RI 02876. The new tube, designated type 45XQ, is an extension of Plumbicon technology. The limiting resolution is 1600 TV lines with 400 TV line response typically 95% and 1000 TV line response between 35 and 40%. Decay lag after 50 ms is typically 5% even without using the tube's integral bias light system. The 45XQ is a 30-mm tube with an effective target diameter of 26 mm of advanced design and construction. Its evaporated G₃ electrode reduces the requirement for deflection power and improves geometry and registration, and its rugged mesh construction reduces microphonics. Other features include low capacitance target contact, a newly developed diode gun operation for improved beam acceptance, and an LED array for integral bias light.

Applications other than television broadcasting and motion pictures may include flight simulation, television fluoroscopy and dynamic film and document scanning.

Leader Instruments Corp., headquartered in Plainview, N.Y., has expanded its West Coast and warehouse facilities with the acquisition of larger quarters at 9721 Lurline Ave., Chatsworth, CA 91311, according to a recent announcement. Manager of the new Chatsworth facility is Takeo Mukasa who established Leader's first California warehouse and technical center several years ago. It was also an-

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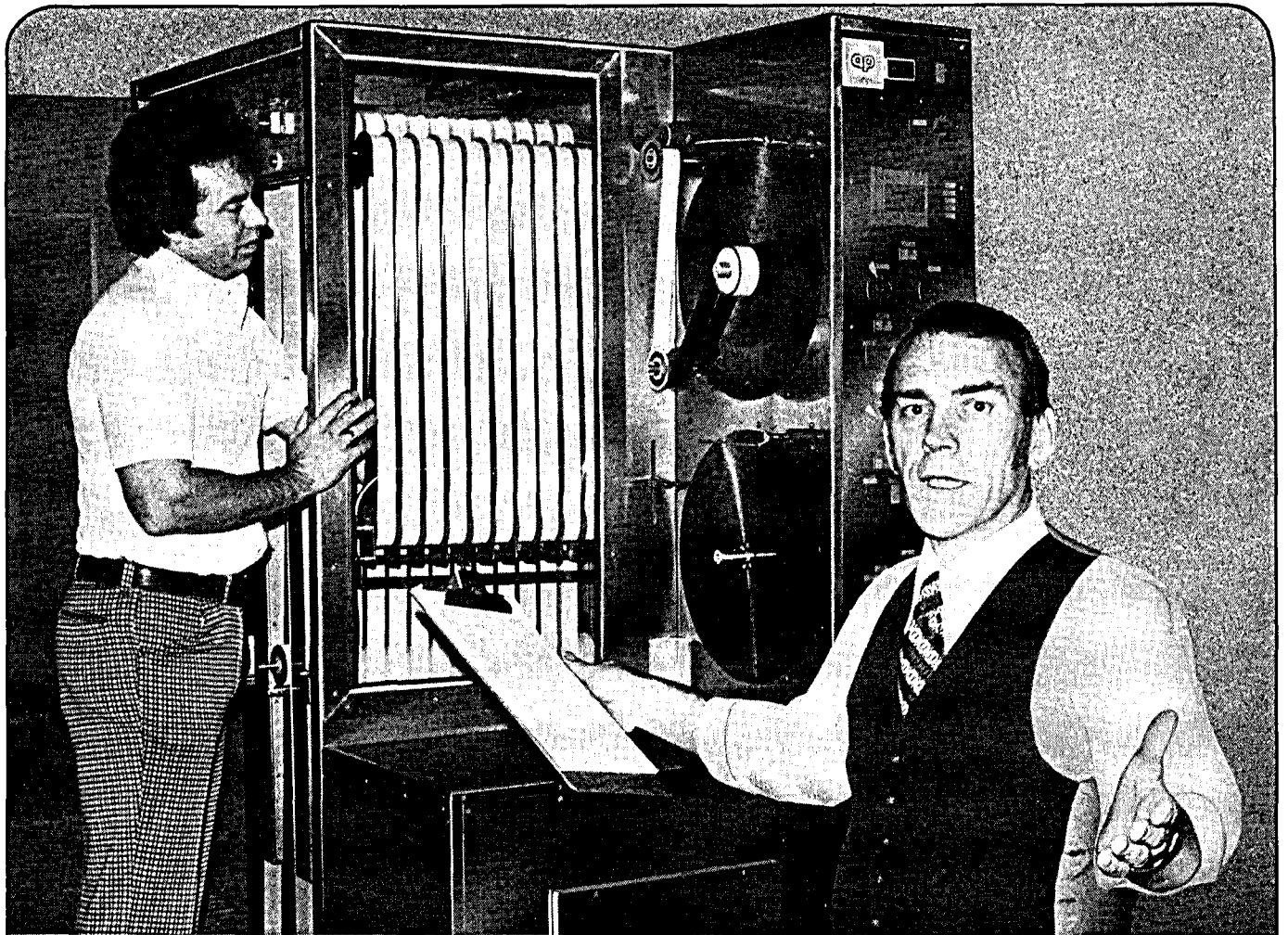
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nounced that the firm has added a number of new instruments to its equipment line for application in industrial, audio, videotape recording and related areas.

The earth station planned as the control center for satellite services supplied by RCA American Communications to NASA's communications network has been opened at the Goddard Space Flight Center at Greenbelt, Md. The satellite communication facilities have been installed in a 40- X 60-ft building including communications subsystems. The building also provides room for a remote command and control facility to monitor operations of other ground facilities within NASA's wideband network. Previously the earth station at Goddard had been operating from a mobile van. The RCA Americom earth station, dedicated to government use, will link Tracking and Data Relay Satellite System receiving antennas via RCA's satellite with NASA facilities that will process the information and direct the Shuttle as well as other programs. Satellite technology provides the high data transmission rates required for this service — from 224,000 bits/s to 1.544 million bits/s. A second RCA earth station at Goddard is expected to be completed this summer.

ViewData, a system developed by the British Post Office Telecommunications, Lutyens House, 1-6 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 7LY, England, is designed to enable subscribers, at the touch of a button, to call up information over their telephones and display it in words or simple diagram form on their television screens.

ViewData is transmitted via the telecommunications network (a normal dial-up line from home or office) while the transmission medium for TeleText is a broadcast signal. Elements of ViewData include the terminal (a modified domestic television set); the transmission system; the computer; and the data base and its index philosophy. Development of a combined Tele-Text/ViewData receiver is underway.

RCA Broadcast Systems, Camden, NJ 08102, has announced an agreement with Sony Corp. to market worldwide the Japanese firm's line of television broadcast 1-in nonsegmented helical scan videotape recorders. Included under the terms of the agreement are the BVH-1000 studio model, the BVH-500 portable recorder, and accessories such as the BVT-1000 digital time-base corrector. The new 1-in products will conform to the recording format under consideration by the SMPTE for non-segmented helical scan recorders and will be available in NTSC, PAL and SECAM models. RCA will continue to market the Bosch segmented helical scan recorders as well as the RCA line of TR-600 quadruplex recorders and editing systems.

Chyron Corp., 223 Newtown Rd., Plainview, NY 11803, has announced the formation of a Video Products Division to be responsible for the marketing and distribution of the Chyron 3/4-in Video Cassette Cleaner and Evaluator and other specialized video products. Richard P. Boyd is Director of Marketing for the new division. Chyron graphics and titling equipment will continue to be marketed and distributed by the Chyron Telesystems Division.

Modern Talking Picture Service, a distributor of sponsored film programs and videocassettes, has entered a joint venture with Modern Telecommunications, Inc. (MTI), a newly formed company at One Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, New York, NY 10017. MTI offers videotape services including electronic editing; both on-line and off-line film-to-tape transfers; color correction; videotape duplication of 2-in, 3/4-in, and 1/2-in tape; and tape-to-film transfers employing a color separation and noise reduction process. Modern Talking Picture Service (headquarters at 2323 New Hyde Park Rd., New Hyde Park, NY 11040) is the exclusive sales agent for MTI in nonbroadcast markets.

J. Kenneth Moore and Arthur Kaiser of CBS Technology Center and William E. Glenn, formerly with CBS and at present with the Science and Technology Center at Dania, Fl., have been granted a U.S. Patent for their invention of a Digital Noise Reduction System (DNR) for color television. Development of the DNR System originated in 1971 at the CBS Technology Center under a broad program of digital television research.

The device markedly improves the quality of NTSC television pictures which have been degraded by noise. Possible applications include portable color television cameras used under marginal lighting conditions in electronic newsgathering; videotape recording and microwave and satellite transmission.

The principle of noise reduction is not new. In the past, picture averaging on a full frame basis, has been extensively used to reduce picture noise; however, with the digital techniques employed in this device, picture averaging is accomplished on a per picture element basis for the first time. The picture information in each frame is broken down into some 350,000 picture elements or pixels. This permits each pixel to be compared and averaged with its corresponding pixel in the earlier frames. This averaging process takes place at a rate of 10.7 million times per second. Improved signal-to-noise ratios up to 15 dB have been accomplished. As digital picture manipulation is refined even further, an additional 2 to 3 dB improvement may be possible with units of this type.

Joseph A. Flaherty, Vice-President of Engineering & Development for CBS Television Network said, "The DNR will improve picture quality of marginal signals and increase production flexibility by permitting the use of additional videotape generations in the recording, editing and processing of television programs."

The unit will be manufactured under license by Thomson-CSF Laboratories, Inc., at Stamford, Conn.

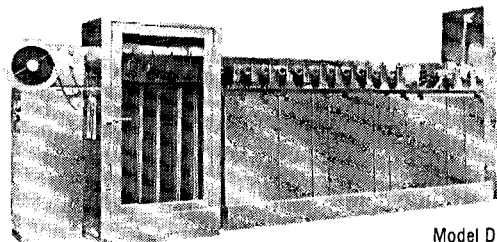
Books, Booklets, Brochures

The Beseler 35[®] sound filmstrip viewer is described in a 4-page color brochure available upon request from Charles Beseler Co., 8 Fernwood Rd., Florham Park, NJ 07932. Features described include fully automatic operation, pause/proceed capability and a large, sharp screen image.

The TCG-1432A character generator is described in a 6-page brochure available upon request from TeleMation, Inc., P.O. Box 15068, Salt Lake City, UT 84115. The brochure is illustrated by photographs and diagrams. Features described include stand-alone titling, titling over video, a color background generator, and special display features such as 12- and 24-h

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