



# Section Meetings

**Chicago, 26 September** — The meeting was held at Teletronics-Video Services, Inc., with an attendance of 35 members and guests. The program began with a tour of the Teletronics facility. During the tour, Arden Thompson, Director of Engineering for Teletronics-Video Services, and his staff were on hand to explain the various systems used in conjunction with their extensive videocassette duplication operation.

Norman C. Ritter, Supervisor of Professional Videotape Products for the 3M Company, then conducted a program covering magnetic recording tape and its status with respect to both video and audio applications. Also discussed were manufacturing design considerations and new developments.

The meeting was preceded by a dinner at the Fountain-Bluc Restaurant. — Paul R. Markun (Secretary-Treasurer), The Media Works, Inc., 300 West Washington, Chicago, IL 60606.

**Dallas/Fort Worth, 4 October** — The meeting was held at the Southern Baptist Radio-TV Commission in Fort Worth. Forty-two members and guests finally got a chance to peek at the Commission's fantastic production facilities.

Section Chairman Paul F. Brown, who is Vice-President of Engineering for the Commission, gave a long, detailed history and overview of the Commission. Members and guests were placed in small groups for extensive tours of the Commission's facilities. A complete television production/post-production studio contained a 60- x 75- x 30-ft stage lighting package, three Ampex AVR-3 videotape recorders, a CDL480 switcher, a TK-28 RCA film chain and RCA PM-86SL servolocked mag film machine, three LDK 25 Philips cameras with Canon 18:1 zooms, a 3/4-in editing and duplication set-up, a quad eight 20 x 16 audio board, and a number of other items.

Film production/post-production facilities include a complete in-house field production base station (like a mini Victor Duncan), a complete Magnatech film dubbing theater, Steenbeck-equipped editing rooms, etc.

Ancillary and support systems include a mobile video production van, print shop, art department, sets, props, etc. Radio production studios, and tape duplication and distribution facilities were also visited. — Roy Cherryhomes (Secretary-Treasurer), World Broadcast Systems, 6833 N. Ridge, Dallas, TX 75214.

**Detroit, 16 October** — The meeting was held in the studios of General Television Network in Detroit. Randy Hippler, President of General Television Network welcomed the 27 members and guests to the GTN studios. Kish Sadhvani, Product Manager for Rank Precision Industries, gave a presentation on zoom lenses. He reviewed the inter-relationships between focal length, angle of view, and the various image formats required of a zoom lens. The design considerations for zoom lenses were discussed. Available lens choices from several lens manufacturers were reviewed. The modular Rank Taylor Hobson MRL lens was demonstrated. Controlled lighting in the studio permitted the use of a color camera for the lens demonstration as well as the use of a slide projector. — Warren P. Happel (Chairman), John F. X. Browne and Associates, 25 W. Long Lake Rd., Bloomfield Hills, MI 48013.

**Hollywood, 17 October** — The meeting was held at Studio A of Trans American Video with an attendance of 138 members and guests. Michael M. Chewey, Chief Electronics Engineer, MGM Laboratories, spoke on "Controlling Optical Printers by Microprocessor and Generating Paper Tapes by Computer." Gordon Cordell, of RCA Photophone Systems, spoke on "The FR-35B Servo-Controlled 35mm Projector."

Chewey described the computer control technology used at the MGM Laboratories in Culver City, explaining in detail how computerization has made a significant impact on machine controls throughout the industry, leading to increased productivity, reduced waste, and development of new techniques which enhance

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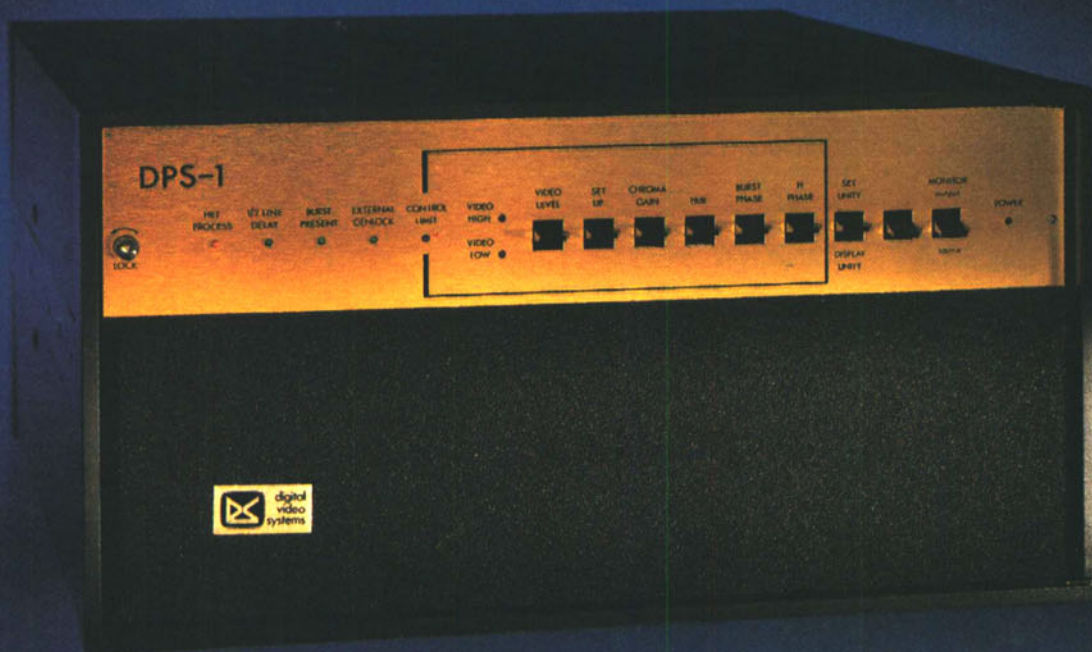
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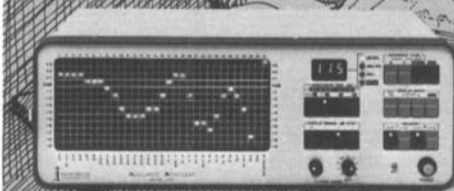
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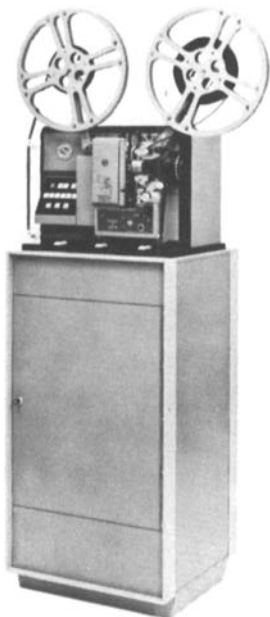
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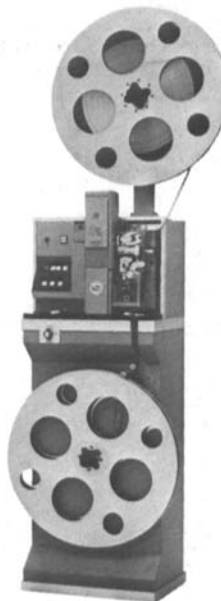


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machine operation and capability. A new micro-processor-based control unit for optical printers has been developed at MGM. In addition to simplifying the operation of the printer, certain programming techniques have been developed which increase the life of each light valve.

He described also the paper tape programmer designed at MGM which is a mini-computer-based system with peripherals such as a CRT/keyboard high-speed printer and combination reader-punch. Chewey's presentation was effectively illustrated by a number of well chosen slides.

Cordell described the various applications and features of the RCA FR-35B projector, using slides and also the projector itself which he had on stage. He explained how the FR-35B, using low inertia drive motors, was used in automatic dialogue replacement as well as for more customary applications. He described how the electromechanical pull-down system and its six servo systems operate. He noted also the six-times-sound speed capability, the registration sensor and servo, the shutter servo, two drive servos (supply and take-up), and cine and flow modes. The projector normally handles 3000 ft but can be modified to accept 6000 ft of 35mm film. The bi-directional reel servos and instant stop-start feature were of special interest.

Pete Wood, Vice-President of Engineering and Director of Technical Operations at Trans-American Video, gave a brief description of the latest facilities at Trans-American and then hosted a tour which included an impressive demonstration of the Trans-American FR-35B in action.

The meeting was preceded by a dinner held at the Old Spaghetti Factory. — Craig Curtis (Secretary-Treasurer), NBC, 3000 W. Alameda Ave., Burbank, CA 91523.

**New York, 13 September** — The meeting was held at NBC Television Studio 8H in the RCA Building at Rockefeller Center with some 350 members and guests present. The first paper on the program, entitled "From Graphic Artist to Composite Scene — The Digital Way," was presented by Robert Mausler, Senior Engineer, Technical Development, NBC Television Network. Using a number of monitors and a large-screen projection system in conjunction with several television cameras, Mausler demonstrated the use of the new equipment. Displays included electronic zoom in conjunction with video image compression and expansion and electronic push-on and push-off effects. Also demonstrated was the use of a digital slide store using standard computer hardware.

The second paper, "Special Effects and Sound Effects in Television," was presented by Carl Ricca, Manager of the Effects Department for NBC Television Network, New York. For the presentation, Ricca used a standing studio set. The first demonstration showed the use of specially directed controlled water jets to create rain, storms and hurricanes. The audience observed the set and the effects, as seen through the television cameras, on the monitors. Sound effects were also used for added realism. No one got wet, but the effect of the large water jets was most realistic. After a short interval Ricca presented the pièce de résistance — a full-fledged spectacular studio fire. A large standing set showing the outside wall of a building was seen. A spark was ignited in a fire box and huge flames started climbing up the walls of the set. Ricca explained that by using a specially prepared compound spread on asbestos-backed tin sheets, a safe, controlled fire could be generated. Flames from the set almost reached the ceiling of

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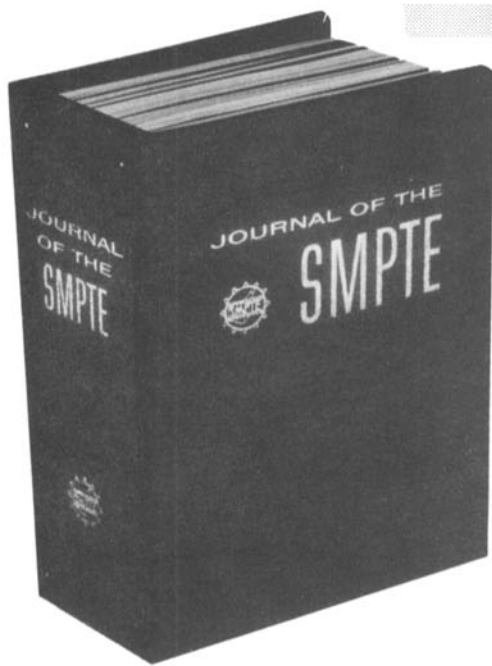
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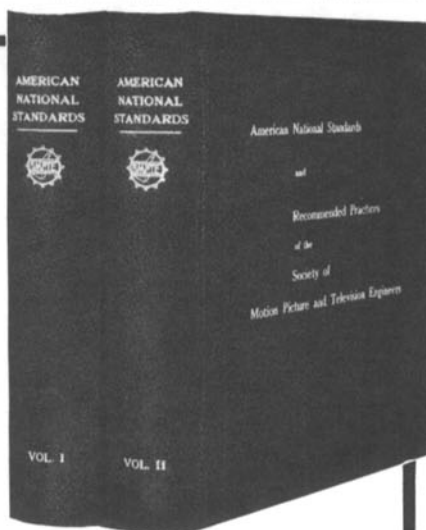
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the studio and some of the audience considered going for the studio exits; however, all was under control and the flames were extinguished, leaving a pall of smoke which reminded this reporter of the old pea soup London fogs.

The audience gave an enthusiastic round of applause and cheers for the presentation. — Richard Marcus (Reporter), Rombex Productions Corp., 245 W. 55 St., New York, NY 10019

**San Francisco, 25 October** — The meeting was held at the KALW Studio in San Francisco with an attendance of 35 members and guests. The speaker was Jack Phillips of the O'Connell Vocational Institute whose presentation was entitled "Training Technicians for Today's Broadcast Industry." He described the work of the Institute and provided some interesting comments and observations on the training of technicians. A tour through the Institute's training facilities followed the presentation. — Joerg D. Agin (Secretary-Treasurer), Eastman Kodak Co., 3250 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco, CA 94109.

**Toronto, 10 October** — The meeting was held in the Photographic Arts Building of Ryerson Polytechnical Institute with an attendance of 85 members and guests. The speakers and their subjects were: Helmut Berger, "SMPTE Test Materials and Standards," and Joseph Flaherty, "Television Technology Today and Tomorrow."

Berger, who has been actively engaged in television standardization for many years, provided an audiovisual presentation on the availability of test materials and standardization in the industry together with a verbal commentary. He noted that the Society has sponsored over 250 standards. The presentation was well received and was followed by several questions from the audience.

One of the most important papers given during the year at the Toronto Section was presented by Joseph Flaherty. New developments were explored such as Action Track, the Electronic Palette, simultaneous transmission of two or more video signals over one television channel, and other developments of great significance for the future of television engineering. — Harold Eady (Secretary-Treasurer), Bonded Services International, 205 Richmond St. West, Toronto, Ont., Canada M5V 1V5.

**Washington, 18 October** — The meeting was held at the Ramada Inn in Baltimore with an attendance of 65 members and guests. The speaker was Frank Davidoff of CBS, who presented an updated version of his tutorial paper on digital television first presented at the SMPTE Television Conference in San Francisco, January 1977. Davidoff defined digital television as contrasted to digital computers, and he described the potential advantages of automation, resistance to noise, and new features (e.g., time manipulation and special effects). One question he posed to the engineers and broadcasters in attendance was, "Will digital television offer a 20-dB improvement over existing technology and at what price?" Conceptually, digital television's advantages are significant, he said, but he noted that the problems of home reception and common carriers must also be considered. The intense interest in digital television was shown in the numerous questions from the audience answered by Davidoff. — Charles F. Wilkinson, Jr. (Chairman), Eastman Kodak Co., 500 12th St., S.W., Washington, DC 20034.