

Industry News & Educational Activities

Kenneth M. Mason, Eastman Kodak Co. Vice-President and General Manager, Motion Picture and Audiovisual Markets Division, spoke at the Film 79 meeting of the British Kinematograph, Sound and Television Society held in July in London, using as his theme the "confrontation" between photography and electronics, stressing that it is an outright fallacy to think that the future of film and videotape is an "either-or" proposition. He noted that there are certain applications where one or the other has clear-cut superiority. "The instant playback capabilities of videotape fill a real need," he said, "but on the other hand, for large screen projection where resolution and image sharpness are the criteria, film is, today, the only suitable medium."

He noted that feature films consistently run between 15 and 20% of prime time television programming. He pointed out that, "consumer videocassette recorder sales in the United States have passed the half-million mark; projection television systems are increasingly being accepted; the videodisk is waiting in the wings; and cable TV audiences are growing. It's possible," he said, "that the movies that will be used on these new systems in the 1980s might origi-

nate on some electronic medium. But it's much more likely to be on film."

Mason pointed out that Kodak has introduced 38 new or improved motion-picture film products in the past 20 years. Among those, he said, was Eastman color intermediate film 5243 which earned a 1979 Academy Award for technical achievement.

The Professional Motion Picture Equipment Association (PMPEA) has announced a symposium on The Visual Affect of Special Effects to be held 22 October at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, Samuel Goldwyn Theater on Wilshire Blvd. in Beverly Hills. The symposium will be held in conjunction with the 121st SMPTE Technical Conference in Los Angeles. The symposium will be conducted by William A. Fraker, President of the American Society of Cinematographers and Academy Award nominee in 1977 for the Best Achievement in Cinematography — *Looking for Mr. Goodbar*. In filming his pictures, creating a softened image is Fraker's special style. Using excerpts from *Looking for Mr. Goodbar* and *Heaven Can Wait*, he will describe his method of making pictures "soft" rather than just dif-

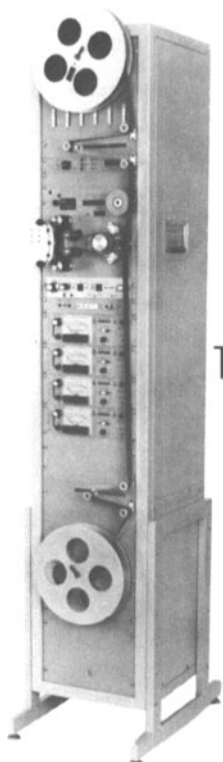
fused images. Further information is available from PMPEA National Headquarters, University Tower, Suite 806, 6440 N. Central Expwy., Dallas, TX 75206.

Ampex Corp. has bestowed four Alexander M. Poniatoff Awards on Peter Jensen, Engineering Section Manager, Audio-Video Systems Division; Billy Baker, Senior Staff Engineer, Data Systems Division; Chi Chao and Bhupendra Shah, Project Engineers, Magnetic Tape Division. The award is the highest honor given to Ampex employees for technical achievement. The awards were presented by Alexander M. Poniatoff, Ampex founder and Chairman of the Board, Emeritus.

Jensen was honored for his contributions to the development of video time base correctors. Baker received the award for the invention of the super high bit recorder automatic tracking system for instrumentation recorders, making possible greater response speeds and tracking densities.

Project Engineers, Chao and Shah, shared the award for the development of the sandmill process used in the manufacture of Ampex Grand Master™, Beta Format 196 Series helical videotape and U-Matic tapes. The sandmill process is a method by which magnetic particles are evenly dispersed with close contact of the particles in a polymeric binder system through continuous motion. This is accomplished by pumping a mixture of these magnetic particles to provide ultimate quality in signal-to-noise ratio in the final magnetic tape product.

The sandmill process will be used for future production of Ampex magnetic tape products because of its significant improvement in quality.



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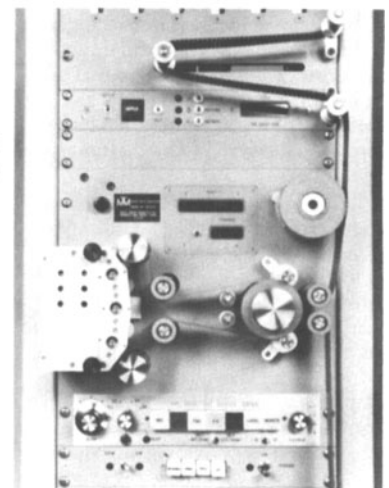
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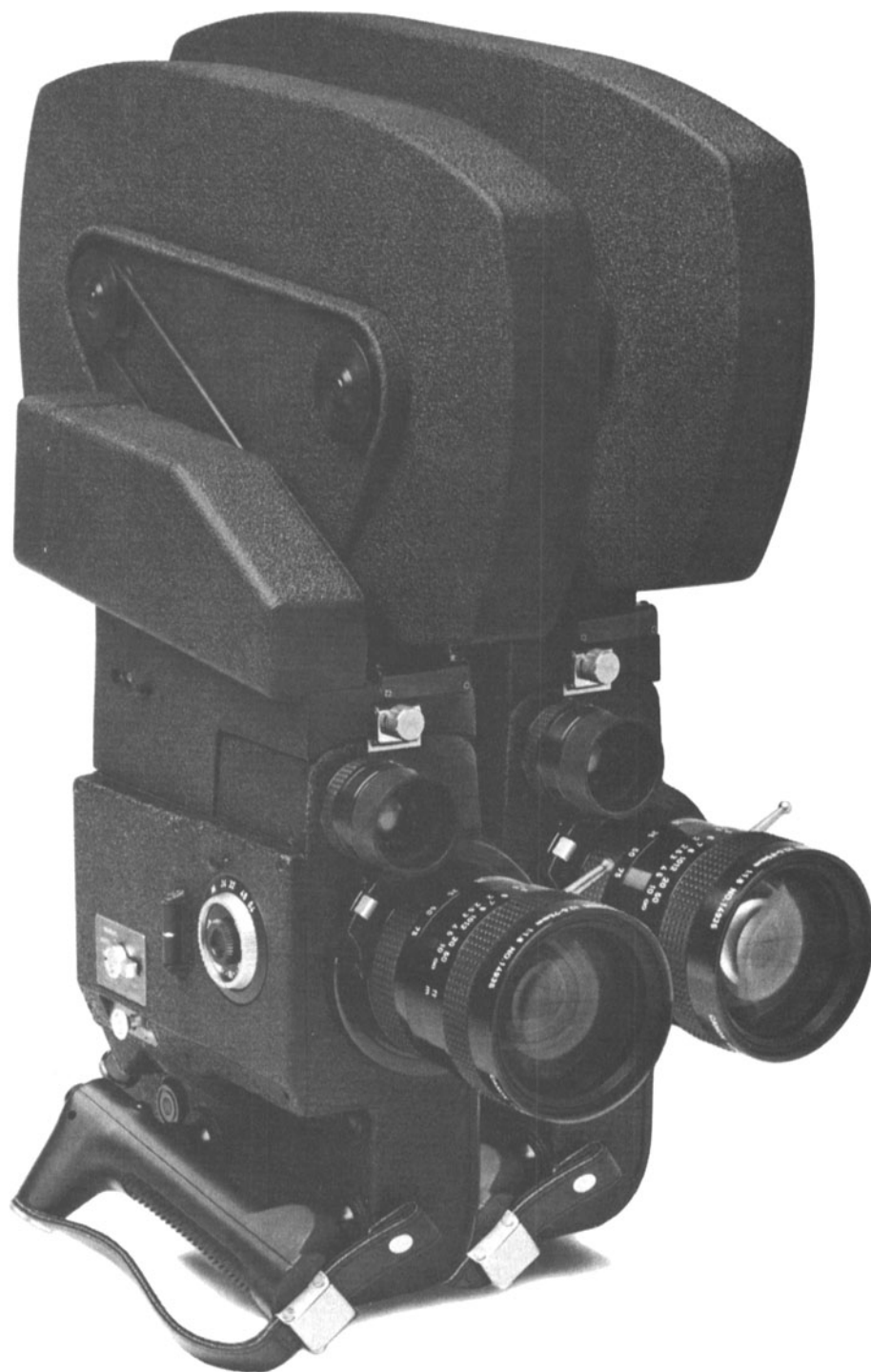
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The Royal Television Society has announced the names of seven new Fellows. They are: Peter Dimmock, CVO OBE, for outstanding contribution to the development of British television in the field of Outside Broadcasts; Gerald Kaye for his contribution to the development of television engineering; Peter Morley, OBE, for his contribution to the development of the art of television; Peter Graham Scott for his contribution to the development of television drama; John Baron Sewter for his contribution to the development of television transmission systems; Cornelius Webster for his contribution in the field of systems design and installation; and Lord Willis of Chislehurst for his outstanding contribution as a writer to the evolution of television drama.

The Baby Stud, a device to hold the clamp used on professional lighting units, has been the subject of a survey conducted by the SMPTE/PMPEA Working Group for Studio Lighting Hardware Standardization. The survey was a first step toward the goals of arriving at standardization of diameters and of devising a suitable nomenclature. More than 400 manufacturers, dealers, and users of motion-picture and television lighting equipment were contacted.

The Working Group has announced a meeting to present the survey results that will be held during the 121st SMPTE Conference at the Century Plaza Hotel, Regents Room, 23 October at 4:00 p.m. The meeting will be open for further recommendations and discussions. Interested persons, regardless of Society affiliation, are invited to attend the meeting. Further information is available from PMPEA National Headquarters, University Tower, Suite 806, 6440 N. Central Expwy., Dallas, TX 75206, or from Ed Phillips, Working Group Chairman, Matthews

Studio Equipment, Inc., 2405 Empire Ave., Burbank, CA 91504.

The 1979 David Sarnoff Awards for Outstanding Technical Achievement, RCA's top technical honor, have been conferred upon 20 scientists and engineers for major achievements in the development and advancement of communications and switching systems, silicon photodiodes, laser beam image-recording systems, and integrated circuits. Elwood P. McGrogan, Jr., RCA Advanced Technology Laboratories, Camden, N.J., received an award "for outstanding technical contribution and creativity in the fields of secure communications and switching systems." Robert J. McIntyre and Paul P. Webb, RCA Solid State Div., Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Que., were honored for "outstanding team performance in the development of theory and fabrication techniques for superior silicon photodiodes." Bertram L. Compton, Stephen L. Corsover, Lawrence W. Dobbins, Donald G. Herzog, Charles R. Horton, and Paul B. Pierson, RCA Government Communications Systems, Camden, N.J., and Kenneth C. Hudson and Bohdan W. Siryj, RCA Advanced Technology Laboratories, Camden, N.J., were cited "for research, development, and implementation of laser beam image-recording systems." A team of nine engineers and scientists from three RCA divisions was honored "for developing a unique family of radiation tolerant, dielectrically isolated integrated circuits." They are William F. Allen, Jr., Saleem Y. Husni, Peter P. Idell, James D. Mazzy, Fred J. Reiss, Thomas J. Robe, Myung S. Bae, Norman H. Ditrack, and George L. Schnable. Each recipient is given two medals, a gold and its replica in bronze, a citation, and a cash award.

Eastman Kodak Co. has announced that it will adopt International Standards Organization (ISO) film emulsion-speed designations. ISO is a federation of all national standards bodies of the world. Currently, emulsion speeds of Kodak black-and-white and color films are expressed in ASA and DIN values. The ISO speed values are the same as those obtained by comparable American and German standards. Film speeds are expressed both arithmetically and logarithmically. The ISO value for film with ASA 100/21 DIN speed is expressed ISO 100/21°.

Drexler Technology Corp., 3960 Fabian Way, Palo Alto, CA 94303, a supplier of emulsion photoplates, used in the manufacture of semiconductor devices, and laser-recording media for digital optical-data storage, has announced an advanced version of the Drexon™ laser-recording disk (*Journal*, p. 864, Dec. 1978). Features include prerecorded servo guide tracks for microprogramming and defect-avoidance applications. These tracks and other control markings are added to the Drexon disk using a photolithographic-type process.

The recording material has a reflective plastic/metal coating which may be scanned with a low-power read laser to search for material defects. When defects are found, their locations, or addresses, can be recorded on a particular sector of each track set aside for that purpose. During the recording process, these defects are avoided and the error rate is improved. The prerecorded tracks allow microprogramming applications as well as track identification, eye readable disk identification, and nonerasable codes for limiting access to confidential data.

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