



Section Meetings

Houston, 19 March — Thirty-five people braved rain and fog to travel the 15 miles to the L.B.J. Space Center at NASA to hear two experts on the video and audio support provided to the space shuttle program. G. R. Osborn, an engineer for the A.V. Service Corp., spoke first. He described how the company, under contract to NASA, provided audio facilities for the space shuttle. He went over the who, what, where, when, and how of the company's support.

After a coffee break, the group was led on a tour of the studio facilities and then reassembled for a presentation by C. R. Caillouet, an engineer for Taft Broadcasting. He described how video is used in the shuttle program and he showed a videotape of a landing test conducted at Edwards Air Force Base. The group went over to Building 8 to see the video communications support system provided by Taft under contract to NASA and then went to Building 9 (in the rain) to see the space shuttle simulator and crew training apparatus. — Leonard M. Hart (Secretary-

Treasurer), Veterans Administration Hospital; 2002 Holcombe Blvd., Houston, TX 77211.

New England, 11 March — The meeting, held jointly with the Society of Broadcast Engineers, took place at QSI Systems, Inc., West Newton, Mass., with an attendance of 45 members and guests. The speakers were Al Smilgus, QSI President, who gave the welcoming address, and Jim Albrycht, Director of Engineering, who discussed the history of the QSI product line and their applications. In addition he displayed and demonstrated specialized video products including a video character generator for time and production information and a sophisticated NTSC bar generator that can identify a source up to eight alphanumeric characters. The unit was demonstrated as a source to review microwave links used as an STL with the characters placed in the blanking of the vertical interval. Another bar generator/source identifier was demonstrated which not only had character generated outputs but which also "spoke" with synthesized

audio which "said" the same nomenclature read on the television screen.

A hands-on demonstration of many other products followed the presentations. — Paul R. Beck (Secretary-Treasurer), The Foxboro Co., Cocasset Bldg., Foxboro, MA 02035.

New York, 10 March — More than 80 persons showed up at the United Engineering Center to hear two presentations. The first was given by Kevin Hamburger, an Audio/Video Systems Engineer for ABC-TV network in New York. He explained and demonstrated the new captioning service to be offered on some prime time programs for the hearing impaired (or deaf people as we used to call them). Using slides and videotape, Hamburger explained the coding and encoding techniques involved and how the National Captioning Services developed the system. The system is now operating on ABC, NBC, and PBS networks and the decoders are currently on sale at Sears Roebuck. Hamburger showed samples of these captions from the Barney Miller show and showed how they were programmed to the tape. The audience was most responsive and the question-and-answer session lasted more than half an hour.

The second paper was a report on the 14th annual Winter Television Conference, held in Toronto in February, which centered around the theme of "The Digital Decade." The report was given by Richard Marcus of Rombox in his usual devastatingly humorous style. — Richard S. Marcus (Reporter), Rombox Productions; home address: 1380 Riverside Dr., New York, NY 10033.

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