



Section Meetings

Special Meeting of the Australian Section

A special meeting of the Australian Section was held on the evening of 6 November, for two reasons. One was to welcome Harold J. Eady, SMPTE Secretary to Australia, and the second was the official presentation of SMPTE's Fellow Award to Arthur Smith by Secretary Eady.

Before the presentation, Ken Hall of cinema fame, formerly head of Cinesound News, spoke at length, outlining the tremendous contribution made by Mr. Smith to the film industry in the areas of sound and electronics, pointing out that at a time of life when most men have retired, Mr. Smith is still abreast of modern day electronics and sound; in fact at 77 years young, he continues to design, build and market sound equipment.

Mr. Smith replied to both Mr. Hall and Mr. Eady on the special honor bestowed on him and he told how happy his years in film industry have been. His membership in the SMPTE goes back to the early 1930s.

A very pleasant cocktail party was provided for this auspicious occasion at the offices of Videolab, Sydney, with Douglas Dove, Manager of Videolab, a very congenial host.

The officers of the Australian Section are extremely grateful to Mr. Eady for taking time from a busy schedule to honor our Section with a visit and to present the Fellow Award to a pioneer of the Australian film industry. — James E. Pemble (Secretary-Treasurer), Agfa-Gevaert Ltd., 2 Byfield St., Northryde, Sydney, Australia 2113.

Australia, 21 February — The meeting was held at the Australian Broadcasting Commission's television studios in Sydney with an attendance of 50 members and guests. It was a joint meeting with the Society of Television Lighting Directors. Marion Rimmer of Berkey Colortran demonstrated a new portable computerized lighting control unit able to control some 90 lights. Especially noteworthy is its ability to store settings in its floppy minidisk storage. The unit shown was a very early production unit. The commercial units are expected to have additional features. The demonstration clearly indicated the great potential of the control unit. — James E. Pemble (Secretary-Treasurer), Agfa-Gevaert Ltd., 2 Byfield St., Northryde, Sydney, Australia 2113.

Australia, 5 May — The meeting was held at the offices of Agfa-Gevaert in Sydney where an audience of some 30 persons assembled to hear a presentation entitled "The Tiny World of David Malin: A Scenic Tour of the Very Small" given by David Malin of the Anglo-Australian Observatory. Malin was introduced by Chairman John Barry who gave a brief résumé of Malin's visit to the Australian Section last year and who then presented

Malin with a plaque in appreciation of his services to SMPTE's Australian Section.

Malin discussed the work he was doing in Great Britain in microscopy and then went on to relate this talk to the talk he gave previously on astronomy. His talk on microscopy consisted of a copiously illustrated tour of a miniature landscape surveyed by both the optical and the electron microscope. Among the illustrations were dramatic visuals of insects, crystals, abstract art, epoxy resins and other materials. He explained the optical method of microscopy and, going from strength to strength as it were, from this point he moved into the unknown world of nonvisual subjects by use of an electron microscope. With this demonstration, the audience moved into an enthralling, unbelievable world. I am sure that none of us ever believed that a blowfly could be so beautiful or have such delicate, feathery feelers. But see it we did, also the never ending look into each and every small crack and crevice in the subject being intermittently viewed. The enormous depth of field was shown by the use of small coins.

The drawbacks and limitations of electron microscopes were also discussed. The sensitized film given as a tool to record permanently the results obtained by the electronic microscope or the optical microscope was itself subjected to the same intermittent look so all of us could see the silver stains in the emulsion. The double layering methods of the film manufacturer were evident as we could see the layers used to make both black-and-white and color film.

This was again a very memorable night following last year's exciting presentation, and we look forward to welcoming David again in the future for another privileged look at his "Other Worlds."

A lively question-and-answer period took place after the presentation continuing until the informal supper provided by the courtesy of Agfa-Gevaert/Sydney. — James E. Pemble (Secretary-Treasurer), Agfa-Gevaert Ltd., 2 Byfield St., Northryde, Sydney, Australia 2113.

Chicago, 18 March — The meeting was held at the Cernan Earth and Space Theatre at Triton College in River Grove, Ill., with an attendance of some 50 members and guests. The Earth and Space Theater is a combination of multimedia and planetarium theaters designed to provide scientific and cultural education for all sectors of Triton College and the community it serves. Named after astronaut Eugene A. Cernan, a native of River Grove, the facility houses a 60-seat domed theater, a large exhibit area, several classrooms and offices. Steve Bishop, Director of the theater, spoke on the wide variety of slide and motion picture equipment used in presentations for the public. The meeting was preceded by a dinner at the Homestead Restaurant in Maywood, Ill. — Michael H. Bailey, Allied Film

Laboratory, Inc., 1322 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago, IL 60657.

Chicago, 22 April — The meeting was held at the Swedish Club of Chicago with an attendance of 60 members and guests. Alan Sheffield of the Victor Duncan Co. and David Bell of Video Processors, Inc., provided an update and demonstration of the Bosch-Fernseh "B" VTR format. Bell gave an account of his experience with on-line models installed in his operation. Possible future applications were discussed. A question-and-answer period followed the presentation. — Michael H. Bailey (Secretary-Treasurer), Allied Film Laboratories, Inc., 1322 West Belmont Ave., Chicago, IL 60657.

Detroit, 8 April — The meeting was held at St. Clair Community College in Windsor, Ontario, with an attendance of some 30 members and guests. The speakers were Rudy Kryger, Technical Manager, CBC, Windsor, and Ray Anderson, Manager Network Group, CBC Engineering Headquarters, Montreal. Kryger's presentation was on the Standard Alignment Tape developed and produced by the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. for quadruplex VTR operations. He discussed the need throughout CBC for a standard tape and the complexities and problems to be overcome in the manufacture of such a tape. He explained also the signals contained on the tape and their use.

Anderson provided a description of CBC's satellite facilities, including the history of radio and television signal transmission throughout Canada. Slides used to illustrate his presentation showed the coverage of Anik A and B throughout Canada as well as the various frequencies of the satellite transponders and ground stations with pictures of specific installations. Anderson also explained the operations in terms of program distribution on these satellites and pertinent technical aspects. The presentation concluded with a look at possible future uses for satellites and a discussion of the delays encountered due to delay in the launching of the space shuttle. — Rudy Kryger, 1139 Eastlawn Ave., Windsor, Ont., Canada N8S 3J1.

Detroit, 6 May — The meeting was held in the auditorium of the Detroit Institute of Arts with an attendance of 75 members and guests. Tom Mann, Director of Technical Services for Image Transform, Inc., gave a presentation entitled "Image Vision: A New System of High Resolution Tape to Film Technology." He traced the history and development of kinescopes from the early days of black-and-white transfers directly from monitor tubes to today's laser and electron beam recorders. He supported his presentation with examples of 16- and 35-mm film transfers from videotape. Examples were also presented of Image Vision, a noncompatible television system with an 8-MHz bandwidth and a 7.16-MHz colorburst which produces superior film transfers. — R. Randolph Hippler (Secretary-Treasurer), General Television Network, 13225 Capital Ave., Oak Park MI 48237.

Florida/Caribbean, 25 March — This was a joint meeting with the SBE and the ITVA Miami Chapters held at WPBT-TV channel 2

in Miami with an attendance of 56 members and guests. The program, on Television Test Equipment, was conducted by staff members of Tektronix. Ed Browning, the frequency domain specialist at Tektronix, was on hand to give an overview of the company and its product line. With the help of David Walters and Bland McCartha, we had a modulator set up for showing the Tektronix demodulator, a spectrum analyzer and the Answer 980 digital television measuring instrument. After a slide show introduction, the audience descended upon the gear for an extensive hands-on session. There was a lively round-robin interchange as specialists exchanged shop talk and tips. — James D. Block (Secretary-Treasurer), American Bankers Life, 600 Brickell Ave., Miami, FL 33131.

Florida/Caribbean, 22 April — The meeting was held at WCKT-TV Channel 7, Miami, with an attendance of 37 members and guests. Marty Forbes, Staff Technical Consultant for Microwave Associates, addressed a joint meeting of the SMPTE and the SBE on microwave technology as it applies to broadcasting. Forbes discussed the many problems with airborne antennas and transmission impairment. The discussion focused on data gathered from many field tests and not on spec sheet comparisons. For example, it was shown how differential phase and gain for long-time echoes in controlled echo tests were computed at 13% in one situation while it was actually measured at 20% on location.

Forbes stated that the objectives of a good microwave system should be high system gain, interference immunity, multipath reduction and consistent quality transmission characteristics. He reviewed in detail the reception qualities of horn, array and cosec² parabola antennas as well as the placement of terrestrial and airborne receiving antennas.

The future of ENG digital transmission equipment was discussed thoroughly in a question-and-answer period as well as the intricacies of helicopter antenna placement. — James D. Block (Secretary-Treasurer), American Bankers Life, 600 Brickell Ave., Miami, FL 33131.

Hollywood, 10 April — Petro Vlahos of VGR Corp., formerly with the Motion Picture Research Council and its successor organization the Motion Picture Research Center, gave a demonstration of the Ultimate IV blue screen matting process to a capacity crowd of 300 at the ABC-TV Center, Studio 59. He reviewed the history of motion picture blue screen compositing systems including UV, infrared, and the sodium line systems as well as television's chroma key. The live television camera presentation permitted the demonstration of various compositing problems and the employment of lighting techniques to solve them.

The meeting was preceded by a dinner at Michael's Los Feliz restaurant. — Gary L. Borton (Secretary-Treasurer), Eastman Kodak Co., 6706 Santa Monica Blvd., Hollywood, CA 90038.

Hollywood, 8 May — An enthusiastic crowd numbering 175 members and guests assembled at the Burbank Studio where Ed DiGiulio, President of Cinema Products Corp., presented a broad range of professional production equipment. Included were the GSMO, the State-of-the-Art Cassette Load

16-mm camera, the CP-16R with Studio Rig, the CP/35 which is a new 35-mm handheld camera, the XR-35 Studio Camera and the Academy-Award-winning Steadicam film/video camera stabilizing system. Also exhibited were lenses from Angenieux, Canon and Todd-AO. Also shown were Cinema Products' new Cameraprompter, the new Bubblelite soft light and HMI lights from RDS.

Assisting DiGiulio were Bill Turner of Angenieux, Kenji Saotome of Canon and Ed Clare of Cinema Products. The meeting was preceded by a dinner at Genio's Restaurant. — Gary L. Borton (Secretary-Treasurer), Eastman Kodak Co., 6706 Santa Monica Blvd., Hollywood, CA 90038.

Houston, 23 April — The meeting was held at the Veterans Administration Medical Center with an attendance of 25 members and guests. The Houston Section was privileged and honored to have SMPTE President Robert M. Smith present a report on the motion picture and television technology in the People's Republic of China. His slide presentation started with a series of photos showing the cultural and historical background of the Chinese people. He then showed color slides showing the current state-of-the-art in the motion picture and television industries in China. Although in many areas they still have a long way to go, some equipment was shown which had improvements that were quite original. This cultural and scientific exchange with the People's Republic of China resulted in an exchange of ideas with benefit to all of the participants. — Leonard M. Hart (Secretary-Treasurer), Veterans Administration Hospital, 202 Holcombe Blvd., Houston, TX 77211.

Montreal/Ottawa/Quebec, 4 March — The meeting was held at Bell Canada with an attendance of 30 members and guests. Bell Canada opened the program with a spectacular 16-mm film projected on a multi-screen and stereo sound system using six speakers in a semicircular theater. This film is one of the many tools used by Bell Canada to demonstrate their vast communications systems.

André Proulx of Optical Art Camera Corp., Ottawa, presented a paper on a revolutionary application of sophisticated motion picture technology to 35-mm slides by using his precision-built miniaturized Optical Art System. This unit can produce unusual slides by transmitted light, adding colors and special effects optically in a one-to-one ratio inside the camera including drop shadows, posterization, split screen, and zoom effects spirals. The Optical Art System is limited only by the imagination of its user, according to Proulx, who explained in detail the techniques used on some hundred slides which were screened during this most interesting program.

Jacques Paradis of Bell Canada gave a brief description of the communication seminar explaining how it provides day-long programs to corporations looking for innovations in communications. This was followed by a tour of the facilities which include the theater, projection booth, remote control console, and an area holding some 20 different telephone communication systems. The highlight of the tour was a visit to the video conferencing room which has the capacity for a cross-Canada conference hook-up covering five cities.

The room is equipped with six monitors, the camera, and a split screen coverage of the total conference. — Grant A. Dearnaley (Chairman), National Film Board of Canada, P.O. Box 6100, Station "A," Montreal, P.Q., Canada H3C 3H5.

Montreal/Ottawa/Quebec, 25 March — The meeting was held at La Maison de Radio-Canada with an attendance of 32 members and guests. Mel Hinde, National Product Specialist, Professional Audio Dept., Sony of Canada, Ltd., Toronto, presented a paper on the technical progress of the new Sony PCM 100 digital audio processor including an overview of its design and operation. The compliance of the Sony digital audio product line with the EIAJ standards was discussed as well as the various recording formats being proposed. A demonstration of the PCM-100 system using a modified Sony Betamax video recorder was made using several types of program material in comparison with an analog recording.

The second paper of the evening was presented by Bill Gibbons, National Technical Manager, Consumer Products, Philips Electronics, Ltd., Toronto. Gibbons described the recently introduced Philips/Magnavox videodisk player. The presentation was illustrated with slides showing the design considerations and theory of the MCA videodisk system. An overview of system components was also given and the unit was demonstrated using standard receivers.

Excerpts from the film *The Sting* were shown and a very enthusiastic question period followed. — Grant Dearnaley (Chairman), National Film Board of Canada, P.O. Box 6100, Station "A," Montreal, P.Q., Canada H3C 3H5.

Nashville, 20 March — The meeting was held at the WNGE studios in Nashville with an attendance of 32 brave members and guests who ventured out during a day-long torrential downpour to hear Richard Schreiber, Sales Manager for Arriflex Corp., and Jack Dawson, Director Advanced Development for Fujinon Optical, Inc. Schreiber discussed and demonstrated the new Arriflex image stabilizer. The device mounts in front of the camera's taking lens and, using a gyro stabilized mirror, dramatically improves picture stability. He also showed a 16-mm film that was shot using the image stabilizer. Included were shots taken on foot, in helicopters, and in cars and boats, and on horseback.

Dawson discussed modern lens technology, including recent developments in materials, coatings, and design. He described the Fujinon high resolution zoom lens with diaphragm, designed for use with the new computer controlled television cameras. He explained how an electron beam coating process is used to minimize flare and ghosts and to improve light transmission. He also demonstrated a new auto focusing device that can be attached to many ENG and film camera lenses. — Michael S. Arnold (Secretary-Treasurer), WDCN-TV, P.O. Box 120609, Nashville, TN 37212.

Nashville, 24 April — The meeting was held in the Polk room at the Opryland Hotel with an attendance of 30 members and guests to hear SMPTE President Robert M. Smith give a first hand report on motion picture and tele-

vision technology in the People's Republic of China.

As a result of the attendance by a delegation from the People's Republic of China to the 120th SMPTE Conference, the Ministry of Culture of the People's Republic of China invited a group of individuals from both the motion picture and television industries to participate in a Scientific and Cultural Exchange Program between the United States and China. Smith, along with William Hedden, SMPTE Past President, and Fred Remley, Vice-President for Television Affairs, returned the visit.

Smith's presentation was an extremely interesting commentary on both the life style and the technology witnessed during this historic trip. Everyone present enjoyed this graphic glimpse of life in the People's Republic of China.

Don Breidt, Executive Director of SMPTE, was also present. He answered questions about the operation of SMPTE and pointed out that the SMPTE staff was a service group available to help all members with problems related to the technical aspects of the motion picture and television industries. — Michael S. Arnold (Secretary-Treasurer), WDCN-TV, P.O. Box 120609, Nashville, TN 37212.

New England, 7 May — The meeting was held at the Eastman Kodak facilities in Wellesley, Mass., with an attendance of 40 members and guests. Brian Spruil of Eastman Kodak presented a paper on "The Kodak Commitment to the 1980 Winter Olympics at Lake Placid, New York." The presentation was augmented with slides of the various areas where Kodak had set up full motion picture laboratories for the Olympic Organizing Committee. It was an excellent presentation covering a superb professional operation.

The second part of the meeting was presented by Bill Keith, Filmarts, Boston, and Juergen Schwinger, Arriflex Corp. The Arriflex Image Stabilizer was demonstrated using a video camera feeding a 21-in monitor so the audience could see exactly what the Image stabilizer can do. A factory produced film was shown which showed helicopter shots, moving shots from speedboats, motorcycles, horseback and a sports car on a bumpy road. The meeting closed with a hands-on session with the Stabilizer as well as a variety of related items such as metal tripods, high speed Arri SR cameras and a battery operated portable HMI light source. — John P. Olsen (Chairman), The Foxboro Co., Cocasset Bldg., Foxboro, MA 02035.

New York, 8 April — Despite the transit strike, over 85 members and guests turned up at the United Engineering Center for a very full evening of presentations by a group of distinguished people. The first part of the evening was devoted to a discussion of the problems facing archivists who are striving to preserve our early film cultural heritage and the methods they use in attempt to achieve that goal. It was pointed out by all the speakers that old films deteriorate more rapidly than their budgets can allow them to recover.

The first speaker, Eileen Bowser, Curator of Film, Museum of Modern Art, discussed her problems concerning the deteriorating conditions of some of the Museum's prints and revealed some of the solutions. Ms. Bowser had brought along some examples of films rendered useless by the aging process.

The second speaker, Raymond Lydell, Technical Director of the Museum of Broadcasting, discussed his museum's approach to the preservation of the output of the broadcasters. He also discussed the facilities offered by the museum to qualified persons for screening the tapes.

The third speaker was Lawrence Kar, Administrator, Preservation, American Film Institute. Kar discussed the AFI approach to keeping and restoring our motion picture heritage.

All three speakers had similar evaluations of the lack of concern of the original producers for the preservation of their creations.

Sic Transit Glori Mundi: Sic Transit, I suppose, was the subway and bus strike; Gloria, a tribute to the people who made it to the meeting; and Mundi was the wrong day — it was Tuesday.

The second part of the meeting was a presentation by representatives of New York's institutions of higher learning. Lawrence Engel of Columbia University, Laslo Benedek, Chairman of New York University, and Charles Hirsch, Chairman of the School of Visual Arts, each discussed his institution's approach to the teaching of film art and technology. Each of them showed a film produced by one of his students.

This was a long and worthwhile meeting and most people stayed to the end in spite of the difficulty in getting home — Richard Marcus (Reporter), Rombex Productions Corp., 245 W. 55 St., New York, NY 10019.

Ohio, 18 March — Dave Kennett of Ohio Bell in Cleveland presided over the first SMPTE four-city television conference meeting between Cleveland, Dayton, Columbus, and Toledo via the Ohio Bell Video Conference hook-up. Barry Dunn of Ohio Bell in Columbus assisted with a technical explanation of how the system operates. Ron Larson of Michigan Bell, who was involved in the early planning stages of the conference system, also gave background information on the set-up. The system uses a black-and-white video system enabling participants to hold face-to-face meetings in the four-city system — all four cities at once or in any combination, providing considerable savings in expenses for travel, meals, and accommodations. The system also saves personal time and effort. The automatic cameras are "voice switched" so the person speaking appears immediately on the screen in the other cities while he or she continues to see the previous speaker.

The attendance in Cleveland was 19, in Dayton, 17, in Columbus, 4, and in Toledo, 2. The ideal number of participants in each city is three or less, so the Cleveland and Dayton conference rooms were packed to the fullest capacity, but no one seemed to mind. The meeting was an exciting first and it was enjoyed and appreciated by all. — George F. Golden (Secretary-Treasurer), Filmlab Service, Inc., 4117 Prospect Ave., Cleveland, OH 44103.

Pacific Northwest, 2 May — The meeting was held at the KATU Television Center in Portland, Ore., with an attendance of 40 members and guests. The meeting consisted of a tour of the new KATU teleproduction facilities conducted by Bill Vandermay, Manager of Engineering, Don Wilkinson, Chief

Engineer, and Bob Moore, Assistant Chief Engineer. The group toured the editing, videotape and production areas with explanations of operations and procedures provided by our three hosts. — Stephen D. Kerman (Chairman), Tektronix, Inc., MS 58-631, P.O. Box 500, Beaverton, OR 97077.

Philadelphia, 6 May — The meeting, the first of two in May, was held at Peirce-Phelps, Inc., as part of their Video Forum, an annual event featuring a large display of video hardware and also including seminars. This was a joint meeting with the Philadelphia Chapters of ITVA and SBE attended by 245 persons.

Joseph E. DeBonis, General Manager of Studio and Field Operations for ABC Network, spoke on ABC's experience in televising the 1980 Winter Olympics at Lake Placid. The complexities of this tremendous undertaking became evident as DeBonis described the vast operation. A series of slides highlighted this informative presentation. — Eric Address (Secretary-Treasurer), E. J. Stewart, Inc., 388 Reed Rd., Broomall, PA 19008.

Philadelphia, 13 May — The meeting was held at the Franklin Motor Inn with an attendance of 25 members and guests. Richard Schreiber of Arriflex Corp. presented an extremely informative paper dealing with the technological advances represented by products in the current Arriflex line. He described the Arri 16SR camera, the new Image Stabilizer, HMI lights, time coding of film and Zeiss Super Speed lenses. Two short films were presented to emphasize further the points made in the presentation. The program concluded with a hands-on demonstration of the 16SR with the Image Stabilizer and the HMI lights. — Eric Address (Secretary-Treasurer), E. J. Stewart, Inc., 388 Reed Rd., Broomall, PA 19008.

San Francisco, 18 March — The meeting was held at Fantasy Records in Berkeley, Calif., with an attendance of more than 100 members and guests. Bob Ringer, President of Image Transform, Inc., led us through a discussion and demonstrations of the various tape-to-film conversion techniques. Potential and limitations of each system were analyzed primarily in terms of the frequency response limitations imposed by the various systems. Ringer described a new system which can record to 8 MHz. Pictures made using this system were compared to 35-mm film which is not limited by electronic considerations. Each member of the audience was allowed to draw his own conclusions about relative quality. — Joseph A. Semmelmayr, Eastman Kodak Co., P.O. Box 3145, San Francisco, CA 94119.

Erratum

Progress Report, May 1980 *Journal*, p. 321

Column 2, para. 1, beginning "Carter Equipment Co.," line 10. For *interface* read *interfere*. The sentence should read: "The unit does not interfere with conventional single negative operation."