

Highlights of the 123rd Conference and Equipment Exhibit

Century City, California, Oct. 30, 1981—The 123rd SMPTE Technical Conference and Equipment Exhibit was again held in Los Angeles, California. Attendance of over 10,000 people, the largest technical conference ever presented by the SMPTE, attested to the growing vigor and interest in both the motion picture and television technologies. The Century Plaza Hotel served as the headquarters for most of the social activities, as well as the Equipment Exhibit. The vitality of the industry was reinforced with 400 exhibitors and manufacturers demonstrating their products at the Equipment Exhibit.

The technical sessions were held in Theaters I and II of the Century Plaza within two minutes walking distance from the hotel. The primary feature of every SMPTE conference is the technical sessions. This year they covered such engineering and scientific subjects as "Advances in Television Camera Technology" and "Laboratory Quality Control" in film through interrelated sessions in the Film-Tape-Film Interface and in Sound for both television and film.

A special feature of the technical sessions this year was a morning session emphasizing the relatively new art and science of computer graphics. As with all new technologies the program opened with a glossary of computer graphics. The session was concerned with graphics in both the television and film areas.

The technical program focused on techniques and technology for the 80's. During the five days of the technical program, 150 papers were presented—a new record for SMPTE conferences.

According to Charles E. Anderson, President of the SMPTE, "This Conference has truly excellent first class papers that represent the state of the art of our scientific and engineering community." The SMPTE was founded in 1916 with ten men signing the certificate of incorporation. Within a year, however, there were over a hundred men within the new society. The first "convention" was held in 1916. Conventions were later designated as conferences and were held semiannually until the 117th Technical Conference held in Los Angeles in 1975. Thereafter, conferences were held annually.

Semiannual conferences had been considered necessary to provide financial support and to maintain the quality of technical papers for publication. The rapidly increasing attendance at the conferences, however, made it more practical to provide one large conference annually. At the present time, the conferences are held in Los Angeles and New York on alternate years.

Together with his associates, Julian Hopkinson, Program Chairman, worked diligently to organize the 123rd Technical Conference. This is the second occasion that Hop-

kinson has accepted this extremely demanding responsibility. With his Co-chairmen Chester Luton for Motion Pictures, Carlos Kennedy for Television and Video, and John Mosely for Sound, they structured an informative, viable, and well-balanced program. Easing into the conference this year, Chairman Hopkinson scheduled the Executive Vice-President and the Affairs Vice-Presidents as



Charles A. Ahto, Conference Vice-President, and Charles A. Anderson, SMPTE President, open the Equipment Exhibit with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. (Photographs by Pablo Weinschenk-Tabernero.)



"This 123rd Conference is already a record-breaker in many areas before it's even begun. We have our largest exhibition . . . we have a record number of technical lectures planned covering the entire field of motion picture and television technology. Many of these papers represent the cutting edge, the latest in technology and innovation." *Quote from an address by Joseph A. Flaherty, SMPTE Executive Vice-President.*

Full coverage of the 123rd Conference will appear in the January 1982 issue of the *JOURNAL*.



President Anderson speaking at the Fellows Luncheon. To his left are Joseph A. Flaherty, SMPTE Executive Vice-President, and Roland J. Zavada, Engineering Vice-President.

the opening speakers. This year the idea of progress in each of the various disciplines was discussed.

According to Executive Vice-President Joseph A. Flaherty, "The SMPTE I think uniquely combines very high level technical programs with the most significant exhibition in the field of motion pictures and television. There are indeed other conferences and there are other exhibitions, but none compare with the SMPTE Conference in our disciplines. This is not an accident. No, indeed it results from the dedicated work of a very dynamic society and of the people who make up that society." A preview of the upcoming Progress Report was given by Lincoln L. Endelman, Vice-President for Photonic Affairs; Herbert E. Farmer, Vice-President for Educational Affairs; Frederick M. Remley, Vice-President for Television Affairs; and R. T. Ryan, Vice-President for Motion Picture Affairs.

Roland J. Zavada, Engineering Vice-President, commented on the progress in and the needs for standardization, both nationally and internationally. He briefly reported on the engineering technical committees which fall under his supervision. It should be noted that over 28 engineering committees met in working sessions to discuss or produce standards in both film and television.

Charles A. Ahto, Conference Vice-President, successfully put together the entire conference and coordinated all conference committees. With Charles A. Anderson, he officially opened the Equipment Exhibit with a ribbon-cutting ceremony the second day of the conference.

One of the highlights of the conference was the Honors and Awards Luncheon held at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. Here 15 scientists, educators, and engineers were honored for their contributions to the science and art of motion pictures and television. The guest speaker for the Awards Luncheon was Fay Kanin, President of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. In her address Miss Kanin emphasized the equal obligation we all have to "reach into people's minds and hearts and change their lives."

Among those recognized with what is considered the highest SMPTE honor were Kenneth M. Mason and Sidney P. Solow, recipients of Honorary Membership for a lifetime of service to the industry. Mason is a Vice-President and General Manager of the Eastman Kodak Company and Solow is Chairman of the Executive Committee of Consolidated Film Industries.

In addition, Daan Zwick, a Senior Research Associate of the Eastman Kodak Company, received the SMPTE's 1981 Progress Medal, one of the Society's most prestigious awards.

The annual Luncheon for new Fellows of the Society was held in the Westside Room of the Century Plaza Hotel. Names of the new Fellows were announced at the Honors and Awards Luncheon and, the following day, they were introduced to their peers. A Fellow of the SMPTE is one who has performed outstanding service to the industry by his proficiency and contributions.

Because of the success of the SMPTE conferences, President Charles Anderson announced that the next Los Angeles Conference will be held at the Convention Center. This shift to larger quarters is due to the rapid innovations in the film and television industry, as well as the need for additional space for the Equipment Exhibition, which shows the present and future of the industry.

The next SMPTE conference will be held in New York City in November 1982, and the SMPTE looks forward to an even more successful event.—*Jack Christensen*



The Honors and Awards Luncheon, where individuals were honored for outstanding achievement to the industry. This year 35 such individuals either received awards or were elected Fellows of the Society.