



Section Meetings

Dallas/Forth Worth, 3 November — The attendance of 44 members and guests was better than average for this first meeting at KNBN Channel 33. This all business-news station, which began broadcasting early in October 1980, opened its facilities to us and a tour was conducted by Gene Peterson, Chief Engineer. Also on the program was Gary Cooper of Tektronix, who demonstrated the 1900 Digital Signal Generator featuring SMPTE Color Bars. A highlight of the meeting was a fascinating demonstration of Tektronix's Answer Computer. This automatic video diagnostic unit uses digital techniques to measure video signals. Measurements which used to require hours of the engineer's time can now be done in a few seconds during broadcasting through use of this device. The equipment includes a graphic plotter capable of graphing the video waveforms. Much interest was displayed by the audience during the presentation and during the hands-on demonstration which followed—John C. Norris (Secretary-Treasurer), Eastman Kodak Co., 6300 Cedar Springs, Dallas, TX 75235.

Detroit, 8 October — Thirty-four members and guests of the Detroit Section were hosted by Midwest Corp. at the Troy Hilton Hotel in Troy, Mich. Two speakers from Tektronix, Inc., Steve Brant, Television Specialist, and Reg Kmarzer, Spectrum Analysis Specialist, discussed theories and applications of several new pieces of Tektronix equipment.

Brant discussed the Model 1980 Answer video signal measurement system and the Model 1900 Digital Test Signal Generator. Using slides to demonstrate waveforms and printouts, he showed many applications for both pieces of equipment, including video measurement of both studio and transmitted signals and the use of the Digital Signal Generator for easy monitor alignment using SMPTE color bars.

Kmarzer demonstrated the use of spectrum analyzers and tracking generators, showing how they could be used for applications ranging from tuning to locating spurious signals.

Following the presentations, the audience was given the opportunity of a "hands-on" session. With signals generated from the test set and taken off-air, the equipment ran through its paces until almost 11:30 P.M., with several members of the audience programming the Answer system for unusual measurements. — Sherwin H. Becker (Chairman), Allied Film Laboratory, 7375 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI 48202.

Nashville, 28 October — The meeting was held at Motion Picture Laboratories in Memphis with an attendance of 47 members and guests. Eddie Hales, Sound Department Manager at MPL, conducted the first part of the program

which was held in MPL's new film sound mixing room. He discussed all aspects of film sound production, beginning with preplanning and location recording, and progressing through editing and mixing to the final release print. Techniques, equipment, and results were demonstrated by means of slides and audio tape.

Following Hales' presentation, James Cozart, Supervisor of MPL Optical Printing, discussed methods of producing titles and opticals in Eastman 7247 color negative stock. He reviewed in-camera, contact printing, and optical methods, and then showed slides to demonstrate each. Cozart concluded by showing a film containing samples of various opticals—both titles and special effects.

Everyone present at the meeting enjoyed the program, which had been assembled by Blaine Baker and his MPL staff.—Michael S. Arnold (Secretary-Treasurer), WDCN-TV, P.O. Box 120609, Nashville, TN 37212.

New England, 8 October — Lake Systems Inc., Newton, Mass., held an Open House to unveil their new quarters, to which Section members and their guests were invited. A wide range of video and audio products was displayed, with the manufacturers' representatives present to answer questions. The speaker for the meeting was Fred Scott of Hitachi, whose subject was "The New One-Inch Type C Editing Video Recorder." In addition to providing engineering background on the machine, he discussed Hitachi's philosophy on 1-in technology. A tour of the facility and the exhibits provided an excellent opportunity for hands-on testing and discussion. About 75 members and guests were present. — John P. Olsen (Chairman), The Foxboro Co., Cocasset Bldg., Foxboro, MA 02035.

Ohio, 16 October — For the first fall meeting of 1980, 40 members of the Ohio Section traveled to TPC Communications, Inc., in Sewickley, Pa. Bruce Weiss, Executive Producer of TPC, welcomed us and gave a brief history and description of TPC and its facilities. Bruce Graham, Manager of Technical Operations at TPC, then gave us a detailed description of the Rank Cintel Mark III Flying Spot Scanner illustrated with a slide presentation.

Following Graham's presentation, the TPC engineering staff conducted tours of the studios and facilities, and we were privileged to get a look at the Flying Spot Scanner in addition to all the other video production and editing equipment. TPC had moved into their new studios in February 1980.

This was a very worthwhile and informative meeting. Thanks are due Don Baret, Manager of Industrial Sales for TPC, who made the arrangements for the meeting.—George F. Golden (Secretary-Treasurer), Filmlab Service, Inc., 4117 Prospect Ave., Cleveland, OH 44103.

Pacific Northwest, 21 October — The meeting was held at the Eastman Kodak Co.'s facilities, Mercer Island, Wash., with an attendance of 15 members. The speakers were Russ McMurtray of Eastman Kodak Co. and Arlan Evensen of Technifilm, Inc. The subject of the meeting was that of microcomputers in use in the film industry. McMurtray explained the use of a microcomputer to simplify the storing, cataloging, and retrieval of motion picture scene data prior to editing. Slides of equipment in use accompanied his presentation.

Following McMurtray's presentation, Evensen described the development of microcomputer hardware and software used specifically for the production and editing of motion picture printer tapes. A complete operating microcomputer system was demonstrated. A vigorous question-and-answer session followed the two presentations.—Thomas J. Bowles (Secretary-Treasurer), King Videocable Co., P.O. Box 24525, Seattle, WA 98124.

Rochester, 5 November — The meeting was held at the Inn on the Campus with an attendance of 41 members and guests. The speaker was Robert Turner of the Rochester Institute of Technology, who gave a very interesting and informative talk on the history of television before 1929. Decades of experimentation and development took place before the development of the electronic CRT television system. The speaker discussed these developments, including the first transmission of pictures by wire in 1847, the first broadcast of pictures in 1908, and color and stereophonic television through current technology—K. Gerald Evans (Secretary-Treasurer), WHEC Inc., 191 East Ave., Rochester, NY 14604.

Memo to Members: Have You Signed Up A New Member Lately?



As one who has chosen to belong to SMPTE, you are aware of the benefits of SMPTE membership. Among these benefits are the prestige of being associated with the world's premier professional organization in the fields of motion pictures and television, the monthly *SMPTE Journal*, the local section meetings, and the annual conferences and equipment exhibits. If you know someone who meets SMPTE's requirements, you can offer to sponsor him or her for membership. This is the best way to help strengthen the Society and point someone toward increased professional growth. Applications are available from SMPTE Membership Dept., 862 Scarsdale Ave., Scarsdale, NY 10583.