NEWS

The International Television Association (ITVA) has sponsored its first International Video Survey with information on current applications and future projections of video production equipment. The survey was designed mainly to reflect future market trends. Over eighty percent of those surveyed said that the ¾-in. videocassette is their main production format, and will probably remain so until 1986. Interest in audio production and quality seems to be increasing, with the audio capabilities of both equipment and tape becoming factors for consideration.

Fifteen percent of those responding expressed interest in adding 1-in. equipment for mastering, and the projected expansion of video networking will fall on the ½-in. formats. Further information is available from ITVA International Office, 136 Sherman Ave., Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922.

Scene Today, a BKSTS symposium which reviews today's activities in shooting, editing, and distribution in both film and video, will be held June 25, 1983, at the Royal Garden Hotel, Kensington High Street, London. High definition images and the techniques of manipulating such images will be discussed. Reports on the scene in Australia, Japan, and Europe will be given to provide a comprehensive review of the industry. Further information is available from William Pay, Secretary, BKSTS, 110/112 Victoria House, Vernon Pl., London WC1B 4DJ, England.

A tower 372 meters high, the third highest in the world and the tallest on the African continent, has been constructed in Abuja, Nigeria's new capital city. (The two tallest towers are in Toronto (550 m) and in Moscow (537 m).)

Tower in Abuja, Nigeria, third highest in the world.

The Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) will operate four 10-kW VHF and eight 25-kW UHF television transmitters from the Abuja tower. The Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FCRN) will operate four 20-kW FM transmitters through a single combiner with provision for four future 10-kW units. Other users include the Nigeria External Telecommunications, and the Ministry of Communications which will have extensive microwave installations on two levels approximately 200 m above the ground. The broadcast antenna totals some 80 m in length.

Architects for the tower are Edward R. Baldwin/Architect, Toronto, designers of the CN tower in Toronto, the world's tallest.

A new satellite transmitter facility has been constructed at Lino Lakes, Minn., by Midwest Cable & Satellite, Inc., 500 South 9th St. Minneapolis, MN 55402. The 10-m dish satellite transmit station will be mainly used for video, data, and audio communications and transmission via the Westar satellite system positioned about 234,000 miles in space. The satellite transmitter will be used as a means of originating Midwest Cable & Satellite's Midwest Report to cable systems located in 10 midwestern states that are affiliated with the new 24-hour cable news service, Satellite News Channels (SNC). The Midwest Report is a five-minute newscast that is inserted hourly into the SNC feed 18 times a day. The satellite facility is linked via microwave to the Midwest Report studios, located in the WCCO-TV facility in downtown Minneapolis.

The 3-D camera system used to photograph *Friday the 13th, Part III* was designed, built, and supported during production by ARRI, according to an announcement from Arriflex Corp. The system resulted from an intensive R & D program headed by ARRI president Volker W. Bahnemann. It was a full-scale engineering effort designed to adapt the Mark 3-Depix 3-D system to the requirements of feature film production. Three goals were set. First, the 3-D system must be adaptable to the 35BL-3 camera without compromising it; second, it should require a minimum of additional time and labor for the camera crew; and, third, the system should not increase production costs significantly over what an average flat picture costs. These three goals, according to the announcement, were achieved. Arriflex is currently working on an advanced 3-D system to be called ArriVision 3-D.

Two agreements between the BBC and Rank Cintel, Ltd., Ware, Hertfordshire, have been announced by the BBC, Broadcasting House, London W1A 1AA, England. According to the first agreement, the BBC will conduct research leading to improvements in film transmission techniques that can be applied to telecine machines.

The second agreement allows for the manufacture under license of a studio stills

New Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers Formed in Taiwan

A new professional engineering organization, the Society of Motion Pictures and Television Engineers of the Republic of China, has been formed in Taipei, Taiwan. It is similar to the SMPTE in the U.S., and was aided and encouraged by the June, 1980 visit of several SMPTE officers led by Robert Smith (then President), Du Art Film Laboratories, Inc., and Paul C. Yang, Paul Yang & Associates, Inc.

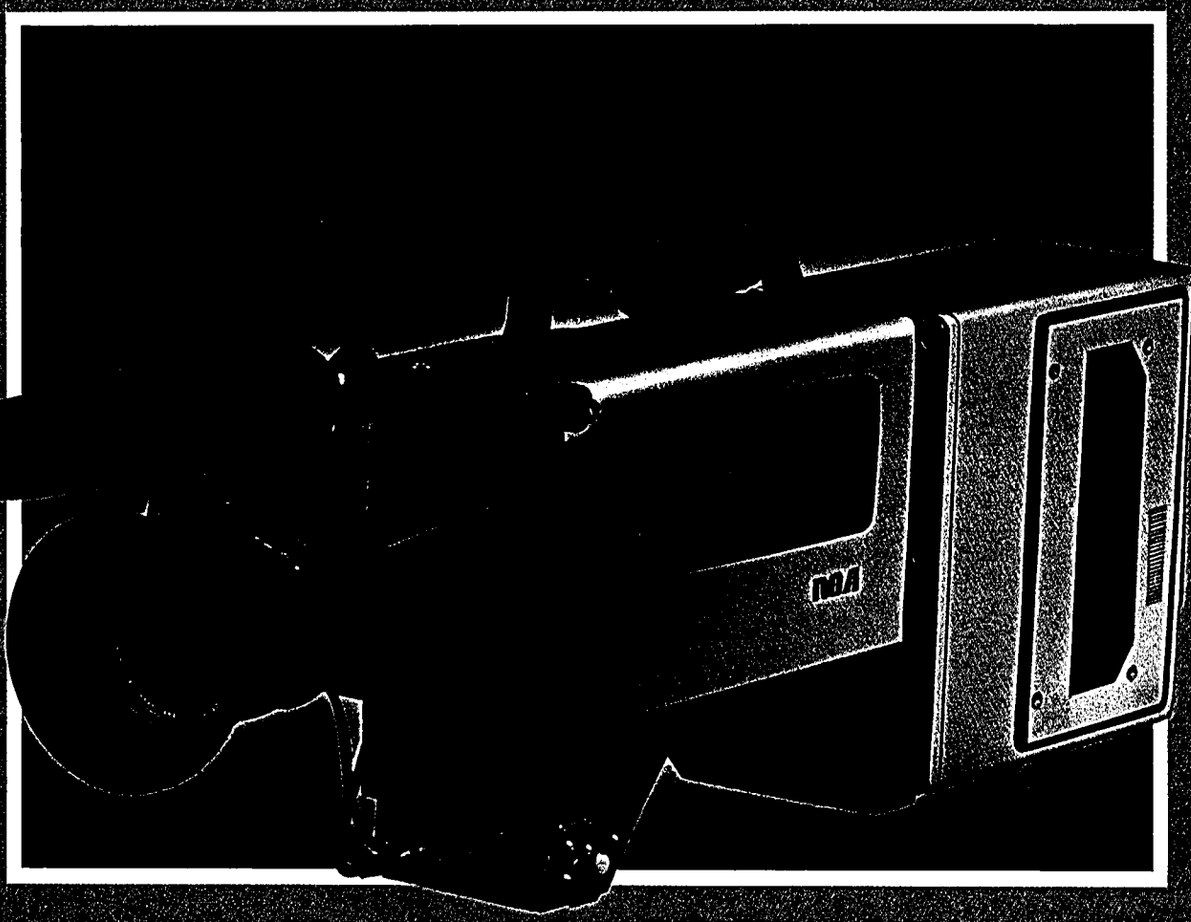
The fledgling society was inaugurated on August 28, 1982, and unanimously elected Wu Pao-Hu, President of Chinese Television Service, as its first Chairman. Membership is made up of executives and engineers of such major motion picture companies as Central Motion Picture Corp., Taiwan Motion Pictures Studio, and Chinese Motion Picture Studio. It also includes three local television networks: Chinese Television Service, Taiwan TV Enterprises, and Chinese Television Co., as well as several large film libraries. There are over 120 members to date, with the number increasing steadily.

The aim of the Society is to elevate motion picture and television engineering technical research in Taiwan, to coordinate engineering technical standards, and to promote the interflow of various motion picture and television engineering techniques with those of other countries.

The address of the new organization is:

Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers of the Republic of China
100, Kuang Fu South Road
Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of China.

A RECORDING CAMERA WHEN YOU CHOOSE



HAWKEYE YOUR WAY

Think about it.

A tough, lightweight camera that delivers the performance and features you demand. That works with your present cameras and recorders. That adapts to your triax, multicore and genlock applications with a simple change of adaptors. Plus, offers you all the advantages of the HCR-1 recording camera system... mobility, reliability and the superior video quality of the Chromaltrak recording format. Advantages you choose when you want.

Doesn't such versatility deserve further investigation?

CALL YOUR RCA REPRESENTATIVE

OR WRITE RCA, BLDG. 2-2, CAMDEN, N.J. 08102

RCA

Understanding SMPTE Time Code

It may be that no element of video production is as misunderstood as SMPTE time code. Producers frequently, although inaccurately, characterize this universal videotape indexing system as "complex," "expensive," and even "unnecessary." But these adjectives defy the facts.

SMPTE time code (V98/12) is a simple electronic inscription system that accurately identifies every frame of videotape with frame number (0-29), seconds, minutes, and hours. Established as the industry standard in 1975 by the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers, the SMPTE code also allows the programming of simple words (termed "user bits") to identify the source of material, subject, location, and other pertinent information.

Unlike proprietary coding systems, which either count electronic pulses from a tachometer linked to the tape transport mechanism or mark tones on the videotape, SMPTE time code is not disrupted by tape slippage or signal dropouts. The SMPTE code, moreover, is not dependent on maintaining an accurate count from a fixed starting point as are the proprietary systems. Since it assigns each frame a unique, indelible identity, randomly accessing a frame or synchronizing two or more VCRs can be easily achieved. Edit points, therefore, are clean, glitch-free, and frame-accurate.

Reprinted from Playback, *a bi-monthly newsletter published by Professional Video Division, JVC Company of America.*

Eliminates Trial and Error

SMPTE time code eliminates trial-and-error editing. When field production logs are keyed to the code, the need for time-consuming review is greatly reduced. The producer checks the log to locate the scene and, with the guidance of the code, cues the videotape to that point for quick review.

The SMPTE time code is also helping to simplify and popularize off-line editing, the review process many producers employ before actually executing edits on a main (on-line) editing system. As on-line editing costs soar, more and more producers are relying on ¾-in. and even ½-in. editing systems to make rough cuts or to log edit points for later on-line editing.

The code makes off-line editing more accurate because, once recorded, it becomes a permanent part of the tape and is transferred whenever the tape is dubbed. Listing tape edit points from a ¾-in. or ½-in. dub, therefore, is just as accurate as listing them from the master. An added perk: masters can be stored in a secure place away from the hazards (dust, food, etc.) of the off-line editing suite.

Not Expensive

The characterization of the SMPTE time code as "expensive" may have been accurate yesterday but, like so many other video technologies, the SMPTE code is now affordable by the professional with limited resources. Portable time code generators to inscribe code while in the field cost just a few hundred dollars, and soon JVC will unveil several ¾-in. videocassette recorders and players with built-in heads to read the code.

Archival Value

SMPTE time code has archival value. Like television stations, most video production operations retain a file of all rough videotape. But cataloging this footage, as many producers have discovered, can be a nightmare. The SMPTE code remains intact even when bumped down to ½-in. tape for storage, and this can serve as the basis of a cataloging system of all videotape in stock.

store to be marketed under the name of Slide File.

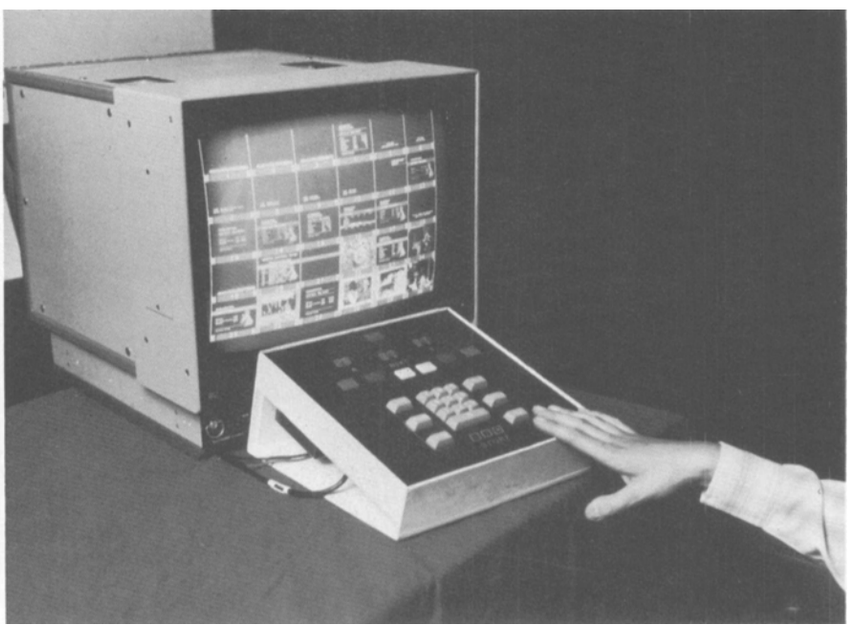
Beginning in 1972, the BBC has been conducting research into the use of solid state image sensors in broadcasting. While solid state sensors have not yet found a place in broadcast-quality television cameras, it was recognized that they could be used in the televising of films, because the motion of the film as it runs through the telecine can be used to provide one of the two television scans. A solid state sensor consisting of a single line of about 1000 picture elements could be used, compared with a two-dimensional array of about 0.5 million elements required for television camera applications.

Although the flying-spot scanning method using a CRT and photomultipliers is preferred for post-production work, the latest line array sensors are capable of producing broadcast-quality pictures and offer several advantages over camera-type and flying-spot systems.

The studio stills store is a prototype of a simple, inexpensive electronic still picture storage and display system. It is designed to enable still pictures to be selected for transmission, replacing more conventional slide-scanners. It provides storage for pictures derived from slides, or "grabbed" from electronic sources such as cameras, caption generators, and graphic sources.

Patapsco Designs Inc., P.O. Box 170, Frederick, MD 21701, has announced the acquisition of the assets and business of the Datametrics Time Code business from Datametrics-Dresser of Wilmington, Mass. This firm is part of the Instrument Div. of Dresser Industries Inc., Dallas, Tex.

The time code business consists of two major areas — IRIG timing equipment and equipment conforming to the SMPTE Time Code (V98/12). The IRIG equip-



BBC/Rank Cintel studio still store.

HITACHI HEARD YOU.

AUTO SETUP

Don't want much, do you?

Dynamic registration not just at dead center but at all four corners. Plus 2-minute auto-setup of all those cameras.

You're asking for some smart camera system, networks of the world and top-drawer video production companies.

Well, Hitachi heard you, and has created an outright *genius*—the Hitachi SK-110 Camera System.

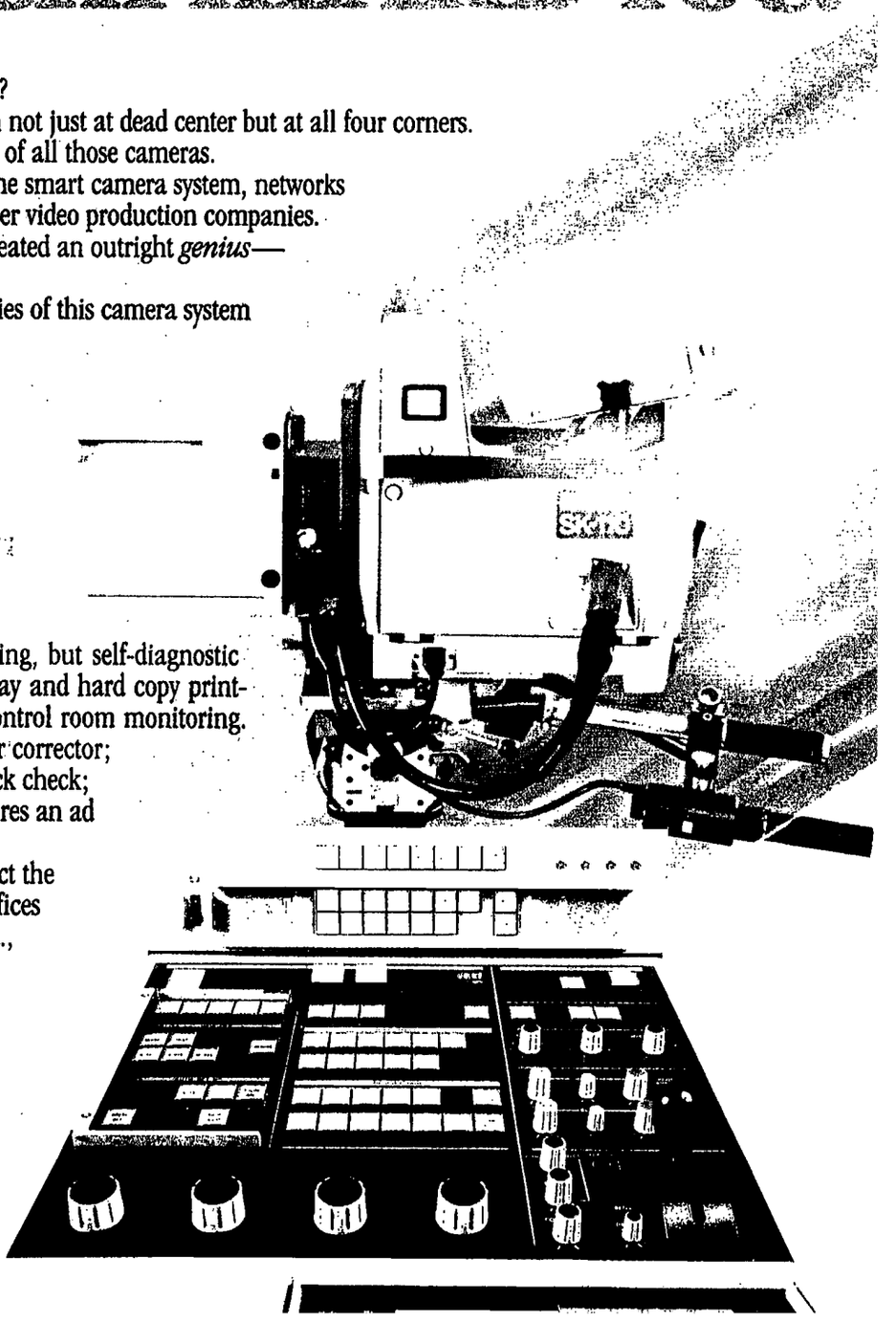
The computer registration capabilities of this camera system produce pictures of a clarity and resolution previously unheard of.

And you get auto-setup at the push of just one button, and zero reference, too, where the computer sets the green channel and compares blue and red to it with absolute precision.

The SK-110 is not only self-correcting, but self-diagnostic as well. It gives both video screen display and hard copy printout; can be hooked into the CRT for control room monitoring.

There's a high-performance contour corrector; 5 automatic setup modes including quick check; 5 data files; so many other unique features an ad can't begin to tell you about them.

The ultimate Hitachi SK-110. Contact the broadcast video division at any of the offices listed below. Hitachi Denshi America Ltd., 175 Crossways Park West, Woodbury, NY 11797 (516) 921-7200. Offices also in Chicago (312)344-4020; Los Angeles (213) 538-4880; Atlanta (404) 451-9453; Cincinnati (513) 489-6500; Dallas (214) 233-7623; Denver (303) 344-3156; Seattle, (206) 575-1690; and Washington, D.C. (301) 459-8262.



ment precisely locates data recorded on magnetic tape for analysis and correlation. This equipment is used primarily in aerospace, defense, and medical fields. Equipment conforming to the SMPTE Time Code identifies each television picture frame recorded on videotape following precise computer-controlled editing of videotaped programs. The newly acquired business will relocate in Frederick, Md., and will operate as a wholly-owned subsidiary under the name Time Code Technology, Inc.

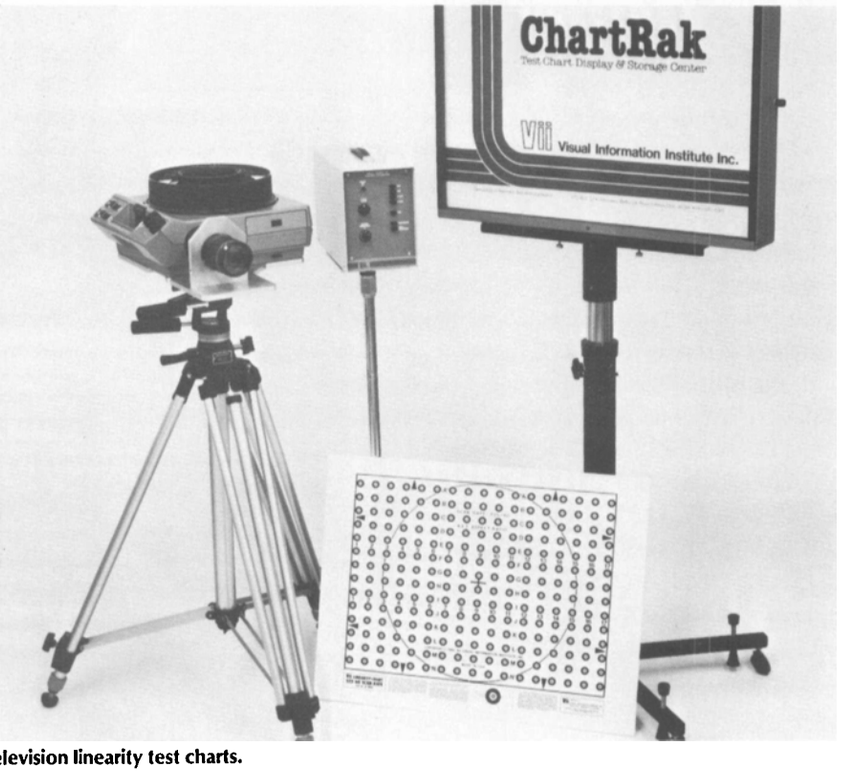
Richard Sirinsky has been appointed Director of Sales Development for Ampex Corp., 401 Broadway, Redwood City. CA 94063. He was formerly Market Manager, Ampex Audio-Video Systems Division. Prior to that assignment he was Vice-President and General Manager of the European, African, and Middle Eastern area for Ampex International, based in Reading, England. In his new post he will direct the activities of the training and teleproduction center and corporate advertising department.

A series of television linearity test charts has been developed by Visual Information Institute, Inc., P.O. Box 33, Xenia, OH 45385. The charts allow evaluation of size and centering, and scan non-linearities at any scan rate to tolerances as close as ±0.25%. Charts are configured to match specific scan rates and are available in three formats — a large printed chart, 19¼ × 25 in., transparencies 8 × 10 in., and 35-mm slides 2 × 2 in.

Paul Breneman has been named Chief Engineer for Telematrix. He was formerly Engineering Supervisor for Warner Amex Qube in Columbus, Ohio. In his new post he will be responsible for equipment maintenance and systems modification.

Albert J. LaVezzi has been appointed President of LaVezzi Machine Works, Inc., 900 North Larch Ave., Elmhurst, IL 60132, succeeding Thomas E. LaVezzi, who was elected Chairman of the Board. Albert LaVezzi started with the company as a machinist in 1968 and was promoted to supervisory positions, becoming Production Manager in 1973. In this position he was responsible for much of the company's expansion into the use of numerically-controlled machining equipment.

Singer Educational Systems has been purchased by Telex Communications, Inc., according to a recent announcement. Singer Educational Systems manufactures and markets audiovisual equipment, primarily 35-mm sound-slide projectors, and



Television linearity test charts.

"Even at 22,000 feet on Mt. Everest, the Canon Scoopic Worked Perfectly!" *David Breashears*

These are the words of David Breashears, cameraman on the nearly successful first attempt by an all-American team to conquer Mt. Everest's east face. A Canon Scoopic 16mm camera was ultimately used to record most of the images of the climb, sponsored by ABC's "The American Sportsman" TV series.

"After three days in trucks over primitive dirt roads, then lashed to the side of a yak for six days, then hand carried by porters across the glacier to our base camp, I can't say how many times the Scoopic was dropped, turned upside-down and generally banged around while enroute."

"On the mountain, the Scoopic was not brought into our heated shelters regardless of conditions. It remained outside in its case night after night. The most amazing thing was not that the camera survived all this, but that its automatic exposure system remained accurate. Even at 22,000 feet –our highest ascent– the Scoopic worked perfectly."

We didn't build the Canon Scoopic specifically to climb Mt. Everest. But, like David Breashears, we're glad it was there. If you need to get your shot on the first take, take along the Canon Scoopic. It's lightweight and compact. Rugged and simple. And it works.

Canon®

Professional Motion Picture Division
One Canon Plaza, Lake Success, N.Y. 11042 (516) 488-6700
123 Paularino Avenue East, Costa Mesa, Ca. 92626 (714) 979-6000
3245 American Drive, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada (416) 678-2730
Canon Amsterdam N.V., Industrial Products Division
De Boelelaan 8, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Scoopic can do it.

Please send me information on the Scoopic 16MS and its system

Name_____ Phone ( )_____

Title_____ Company/Organization_____

St_____ City_____ State_____ Zip_____

16-mm motion picture projectors. Telex Communications, with headquarters in Minneapolis, Minn., is a wholly owned subsidiary of Telex Corp. of Tulsa, Okla.

Willard K. Bucklen has been promoted to the new position of Marketing Engineering Manager at TRW LSI Products, P.O. Box 2472, La Jolla, CA 92038. Prior to this appointment he was Applications Manager. He began with the TRW organization as an LSI design engineer in 1975. In his new post he will have the managers of Field Applications Engineering, Digital Applications, Linear Applications, and Systems Engineering reporting to him.

Robert Manahan has been appointed Regional Manager, Western Region, for Sony Broadcast Products Co., 9 W. 57 St., New York, NY 10019, and **Jay Crane** has been appointed to the newly created position of Manager, Network Accounts, Western Region. Manahan was formerly Director of Marketing for Compact Video, and had served earlier as a regional manager of Amperex Electronics Corp.

Robert Manahan

Jay Crane

Crane has been with Sony for 13 years. He is a recipient of the Sony Samurai Award for his sales achievements as Sony Broadcast's Western Regional Manager. In his new position he will be responsible for coordinating all sales and support for the West Coast-owned and -operated network affiliate stations.

Edward Efron has been appointed Director of Engineering for ABLE Computer, 1732 Reynolds Ave., Irvine, CA 92714. He was formerly Director, Technical Support, for Discovision Associates. Previously he had held senior positions in several IBM divisions. In his new position he will have full responsibility for the design of new products for the company, with special emphasis on developments for new markets.