

TVS, one of the new Independent TV companies appointed by the IBA in December, 1980, to serve the south and southeast of England, has announced completion of a new studio complex in the southeast. The new complex contains three studios, the largest having a total area of 558 m². In addition, a cinema was purchased and converted into a television theater, giving a floor area of 500 m² and permanent audience seating for 200 persons. The Southampton studios were purchased from Southern Television and currently are being re-equipped with new extensions to the buildings.

All studio control areas are equipped with Grass Valley Mixers and studio cameras are either Marconi Mk9 or Link Electronics type 125. The central technical areas utilize Rank Cintel flying spot telecine machines, and C-format video recorders supported by a few quadruplex machines. Commercial transmission is originated from Ampex ACR machines. Three outside broadcast units service location facilities.

The newsroom operation has been computerized. The system essentially handles all news scripts, incoming Press Association lines, script processing, final running orders, and the feeds to the teleprompters mounted in front of the news studio cameras. The system is called Newspeed.

Each studio center has computerized videotape editing suites connected to Grass Valley 1600-3F Vision Mixers with E-MEM and associated multitrack sound dubbing. A new film sound dubbing area has been designed for the southeast utilizing Albrecht 16-mm transports and associated multitrack sound desk.

TVS currently produces 14 hours weekly of originated program material either for the UK network Channel 4, or regional transmission.

Political Conventions Frequency Coordinating Committee to Meet

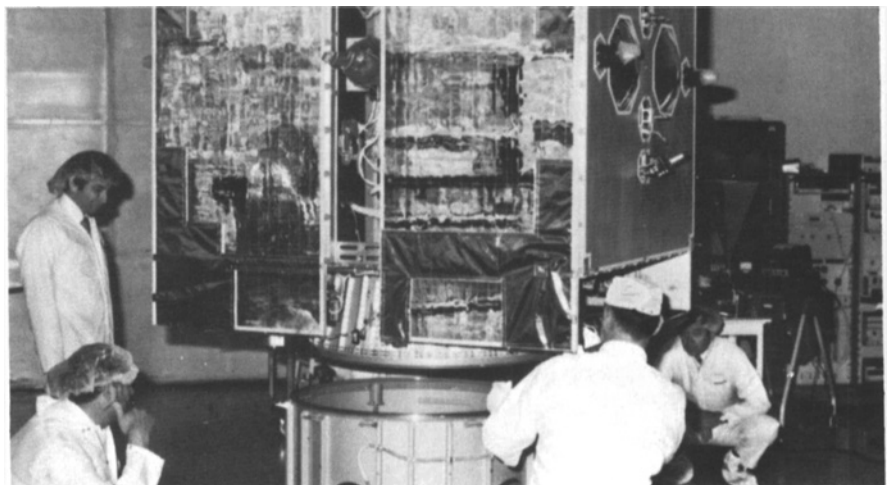
All users of radio and microwave who expect to operate such equipment at or in the vicinity of the forthcoming Democratic and Republican Nominating Conventions are urged to contact the Political Conventions Frequency Coordinating Committee. This committee works to reduce interference among users and resolve conflicts. The next meeting will be held at CBS Television, 10th Floor Conference Room, 555 W. 57th Street, New York, NY, on July 14, 1983, at 10:00 a.m. Call Mr. Rich Harvey at (212) 975-1784 for more information.

Small Format Audio Visual, Inc., 95 Harvey St., Cambridge, MA 02140, has announced the acquisition of Super 8 Sound products and services. The firm will market the full line of Super 8 Sound™ products, including cassette recorders, editing benches, cameras, projectors, and accessories.

Optical Radiation Corp., 1300 Optical Dr., Azusa, CA 91702, has been named exclusive North American distributor for the complete line of ISCO motion-picture and audiovisual projection lenses, it was announced by Glenn Berggren, Vice-President, Marketing. The distribution arrangement follows the 1982 dissolution of ISCO Optische Werke and formation of a new company, ISCO Optic, GmbH, West Germany. The new company is wholly owned by private investors who have no affiliation with the German-based Schneider Lens Co., or Schneider Corp. of America. ISCO lenses were previously distributed through Schneider channels.

Screentext, the United Kingdom's video subtitling company, has announced a long-term arrangement with Buck Film Laboratories. Video and film subtitling, using Screen Electronics Systems, will be provided at the Buck Film Laboratories installation at Banbury Ave., Slough, Berkshire SL1 4LH, England, operating in European and Scandinavian languages plus Arabic. Screentext's new London office, part of David Buck's Wardour St. facility, will provide a full electronic system primarily for television programming and videocassette subtitling.

A fit-check on the third stage adapter of RCA Satcom V was performed at RCA Astro-Electronics, Princeton, NJ 08540.



Fit-check on third stage adapter of RCA Satcom V

Date Coding Returns to Journal Cover

Readers of the *SMPTE Journal* may note that the spine of the cover bears a new code in the form of twelve vertical boxes. The month of publication is indicated by a white box, while the other months are represented by black boxes. When the magazines are stored on a shelf with their spines exposed, the month of each issue is readily apparent.

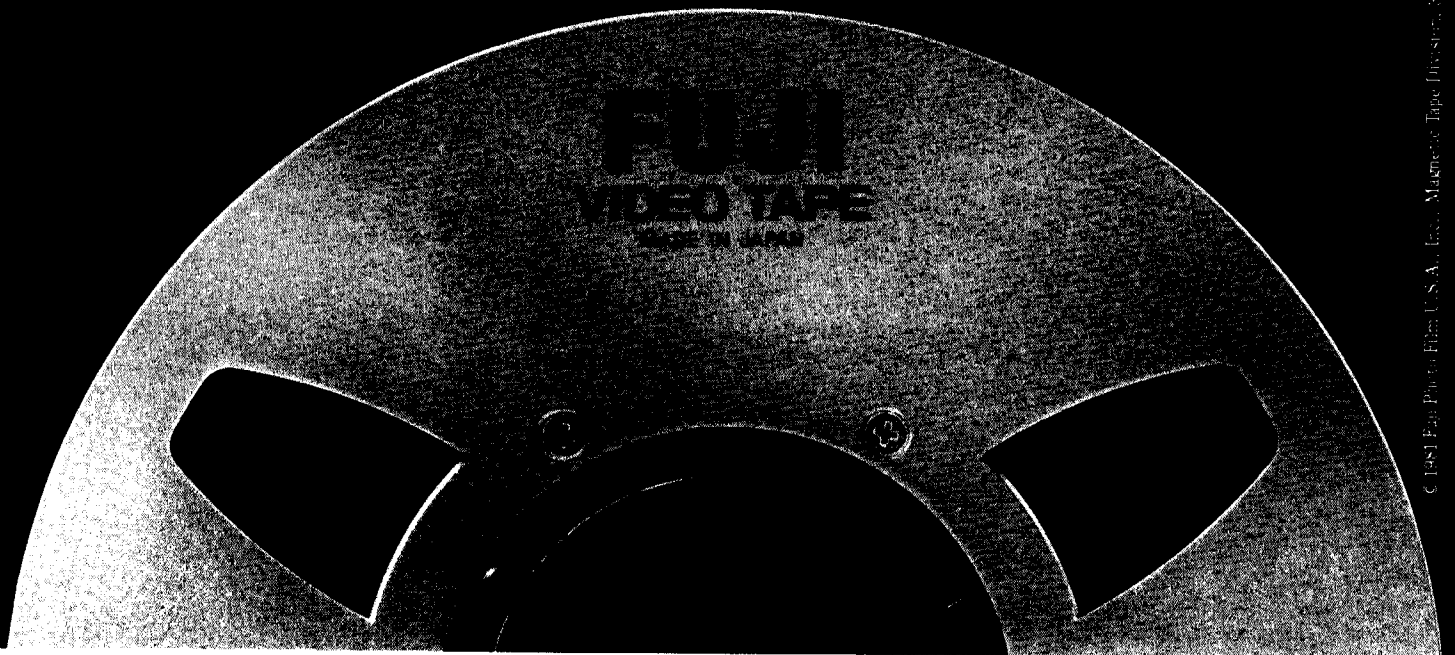
This type of coding had been used for some time in the past, until it was replaced with the name of the month and year in the spine copy. In January, 1983, it was decided to have both the code and the month and year of each issue printed on the spine, and the code was returned to the *Journal*. It is hoped that readers will find it a convenience when referring to the magazine.

Five RCA Satcoms are presently in orbit, providing a wide range of domestic communications services for both government and commercial users in the 50 states. Launched in October, 1982, RCA Satcom V was developed and built for RCA American Communications Inc., and sold to Alascom Inc., the long-lines carrier for the state of Alaska. RCA Americom Communications operates the spacecraft as joint licensee with Alascom. It provides long-distance telecommunications within the state, and between Alaska and the rest of the U.S.

Bryce McCirrick, BBC Director of Engineering and **Alan Jefferis**, Managing Director of United Satellites Ltd. (Unisat), signed Heads of Agreement for provision by Unisat of two direct broadcasting by satellite television channels for the BBC DBS services scheduled to start in 1986.

Unisat, jointly owned by British Telecom, British Aerospace, and General Electric Co., will be responsible for building and launching two satellites in 1986, the first to be operational and the second as a flying

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Finalization of Digital Video Interface Standards

The SMPTE Working Group on Digital Video Standards, at its New York meeting held on March 2, 1983, has completed a Recommended Practice for Bit-Parallel Format Interface for Component Digital Video Signals. This Recommendation concerning 525-line systems, based on CCIR Recommendation 601, is fully compatible with a similar one for 625-line systems that is in the final preparation stage in the European Broadcasting Union (EBU). The document will be reviewed by the SMPTE and published, for comment,

in the *SMPTE Journal* before final adoption later this year.

This Recommendation is an essential element of the future "All-Digital" television studio and other digital facilities and adds the necessary detail to CCIR Recommendation 601 for the practical implementation of digital component video transmission between processing and storage units.

For more information please contact Mr. Barry C. Detwiler at SMPTE Headquarters, (914) 472-6606 X 471.

spare. A third spacecraft will be available on the ground as an additional safeguard. Launch will be by the European Ariane rocket or by the American Space Shuttle, the final choice to be made nearer the time. The satellites will be in geostationary orbit 36,000 km above the equator and will provide signals of sufficient power for reception by individual households, which have suitable receivers and small dish antennas less than one m in diameter, within the United Kingdom and parts of Western Europe. The agreement covers a period of operation of the satellite service for at least seven years. The satellite will carry transponders for two BBC DBS services.

Ethan R. Bush has been appointed Vice-Chairman and Chief Operating Officer for RTI Systems, Inc., 1100 W. Chestnut St., Burbank, CA 91506. In his new post he will assist RTS President Douglas Leighton. Bush was formerly General Manager of Sound Services for Compact Video. Earlier he had been with American Broadcasting Co. in Hollywood as a sound technician.

A new approach to the design of videocassette recorders allowing the VCR to function as either a table model or lightweight portable recorder has been announced by RCA. A docking mechanism eliminates the need for cables to connect the portable unit to the companion TV tuner/timer base unit. The addition of an optional rechargeable battery and color video camera transforms the portable check into an indoor or outdoor taping system. The portable deck weighs only 7.9 lb with the battery and measures $10\frac{1}{4} \times 10\frac{1}{4} \times 3\frac{5}{16}$ in. The announcement stated also that an RCA forecast indicates that industry sales of consumer VCR products would reach \$2.5 billion in 1983.

SMPTE Area Code: 914

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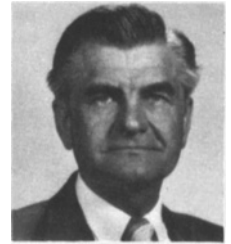
SMPTE Headquarters are located in Scarsdale, N.Y., outside the New York City telephone area code (212). When calling Headquarters, please use the area code 914. The correct telephone number is: (914) 472-6606

Plans for launching a 40-W, K-band communications satellite in 1985 have been announced by Eugene F. Murphy, President of RCA Communications, Inc. The new satellite is expected to make possible the distribution of TV programming through one small rooftop antenna to points within a building or building complex. Small antennas, made possible by the higher power and frequency of the K-band transmission, could be located on rooftops or adjacent to buildings. Terrestrial radio signals such as microwaves offer only minimal interference to K-band satellite transmissions, so antennas could be located within major metropolitan areas.

Clyde W. Smith has been named President of Fibervision, a newly formed division of Math Associates, Inc., 2200 Shames Dr., Westbury, NY 11590. The firm manu-

facturers video cameras and monitors designed to use fiber optics. The new division will develop video color cameras and monitors, black-and-white cameras and monitors, video fiber transmitter and receiver systems, and other products related to video fiber optics. Smith was formerly Vice-President, Research and Development, Hitachi Denshi America.

S. Martin Shelton, Head, Film and TV Projects Branch, Naval Weapons Center, was elected an Associate Fellow of the Society for Technical Communication in recognition of the distinction he has earned in the field of technical communications. Shelton lectures frequently at various universities throughout the nation and contributes a bi-monthly column entitled "What's Happening in Government" that appears in *The Communicator*, the journal of the Information Film Producers of America.



Plastic Reel Corp. of America, 475 Boulevard, Elmwood Park, NJ 07407, has opened a new divisional office on the West Coast. The 30,000 ft² divisional headquarters will house expanded sales and marketing, administrative, accounting, hot-stamping, and warehousing departments. The building is located at 8140 Webb Ave., North Hollywood, CA 91605.

OBITUARIES

Victor A. Babits

Victor A. Babits, a Life Member of the SMPTE, died September 18, 1982, at the age of 82. A native of Budapest, Hungary, and a citizen of the U.S. since 1948, Dr. Babits had a long and distinguished career, beginning in Budapest, where he was a Professor at the University of Technical Sciences from 1924 until 1947. In 1935, he was awarded the Signum Laudis by the Regent of Hungary for the invention of the Hungarian Range-Finding Radar.

In 1947, Dr. Babits and his wife, Mary, came to the U.S., where he was appointed Professor of Electrical Engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, N.Y. He remained there until 1960, when he joined General Dynamics/Astronautics, where he was Head of Research until his retirement in 1965. After his retirement he continued with the firm as a consultant.

He was a pioneer in the development of television. One of his early inventions was a television receiver which used a rotat-

ing-mirror drum scanner and a Kerr cell rotating-drum receiver. Dr. Babits described the invention in a paper entitled "A New Television Receiver," published in the October, 1933, issue of the *Wireless Engineer*. He noted in the article that this invention had been granted a patent by the Royal Hungarian Patent Office in April, 1926. In the August, 1937, issue of *Tele-*



Victor A. Babits

SMPTE Journal, June 1983