
SECTION MEETINGS

Atlanta, April 28 — In a joint effort with 14 other professional organizations, the Atlanta Section participated in the area's second Communication Day. Jeff Davidson, Gannett Broadcasting, gave a multimedia presentation of the innovative technologies utilized by his company in the communications industry.

Several local and national equipment companies had display booths set up for viewing prior to and following the formal presentation. — John F. Swanson (Secretary-Treasurer), Cox Communications, Inc., 1601 West Peachtree St. N.E., Atlanta, GA 30309.

Australia, December 6, 1982 — The meeting consisted of a demonstration and discussion of the characteristics of the Ikegami EC-35 electronic cinematography camera. Sydney Griffiths, Pacific Communications Pty. Ltd., provided the camera and ancillary equipment for the demonstration and gave a first-rate presentation on the camera's characteristics.

In order to compare the quality of the image produced by this video camera with that of the 35-mm motion-picture film, identical scenes were photographed, with particular emphasis on scene lighting ratios and tonal range, using the Ikegami EC-35 and a Panavision camera using Eastman color negative film. The resulting images were transferred to 1-in. tape and intercut so that direct comparisons could be made on the TV screen.

While there were some reservations regarding the overall quality that the EC-35 was capable of producing when compared with 35-mm film, it was apparent that achievement of the "film look" has, in part,

been successful in the evolutionary process of perfecting the film camera.

A question-and-answer period, following the demonstration, covered a wide range of topics associated with the performance of the EC-35 camera, the range of lenses available, and the calibration requirements of the equipment before the actual picture-taking.

Seventy-six members and guests attended the meeting, held at Videolab, Artarmon N.S.W. — J. W. Deal (Secretary-Treasurer), Kodak Australia Pty. Ltd., P.O. Box 31, Annandale, N.S.W., Australia 2038.

Detroit, April 19 — The Quantel Digital Paint Box was demonstrated by Greg Vanderzell, a Postique graphics specialist, following a brief technical review of the system given by Andy Fielek, Postique president.

Using an electronic tablet, stylus, and video monitor as artistic tools, Vanderzell, demonstrated some of the immense capabilities of the Quantel Paint Box. He showed some of the 16 million colors available, he mixed colors on the electronic palette, and pulled automatic color matches from existing video material. The unit generates different types of lines, simulating a ruling pen, chalk, and even a dripless airbrush. A number of geometric figures can be generated automatically, colored and/or shaded, and placed in front of or behind other figures on the screen. A particularly impressive demonstration involved changing the color of a sport coat and adding additional flowers to a bouquet in a still-framed scene.

A great many questions from the audi-

ence were answered in detail by Fielek.

The meeting was held at the Postique facilities in Southfield, Mich., with an attendance of 90 members and guests. — Charles Nairn (Secretary-Treasurer), Communications Technology, 909 Fisher Bldg., Detroit, MI 48202.

Hollywood, April 19 — The meeting consisted of a panel discussion on the constraining parameters of video that the TV system imposes on films produced primarily for television. The panelists were: Edward Ancona, NBC; William Hogan, Ruxton, Ltd.; Russel McMurtray, Eastman Kodak; Thomas Mann, Image Transform; Robert Ringer, Ringer Video Services; William Edwards, Panavision; Charles Kircher, Foto-Kem Industries. The panelists discussed the subject from the viewpoints of film laboratories, transfer houses, film manufacturers, camera manufacturers, and those responsible at the networks for the quality of the TV presentation.

The discussion ranged from the factors that affect the home viewer, the TV portion of the film curve, telecine analysis films (TAF), 24 and 30 frames/sec film production, illustrations of different film-to-tape transfers, and related topics.

The meeting was held at the Eileen Norris Theater at USC with an attendance of 185 members and guests. — L. John Spring, Jr. (Secretary-Treasurer), Eastman Kodak Co., P.O. Box 38939, Hollywood, CA 90038.

Nashville, April 21 — Robert Nollner, Motion Picture Laboratories, Memphis, showed a videotape of the Dubner CBG-2 Computer Graphics System and explained the software involved. Corinne Sousoulas, Artist/Photographer, Motion Picture Laboratories, explained the system's operation.

The last event at the meeting was the showing of a videotape of the luncheon



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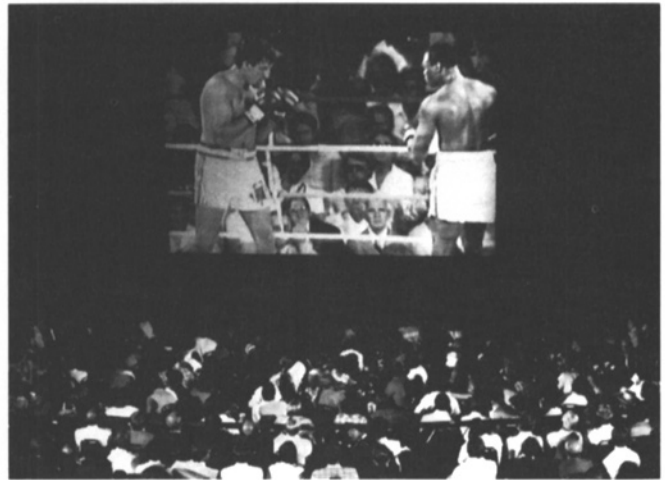
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View from ringside transmitted live to guests in Caesar's Palace lounge.



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View from finish-line projected in racetrack lounge is preferred over grand stand by many patrons.



View from armchair at home is duplicated between races to draw extra admission fee at racetrack lounge.

GENERAL  ELECTRIC

address by Dr. Boris Townsend at the 17th SMPTE Television Conference held in February in San Francisco. Dr. Townsend is head of the Engineering Information Service at the Independent Broadcast Authority in the U.K. — Dixie Lee Parman, (Secretary-Treasurer), Kingswood Productions, 810 12th Ave. So., Nashville, TN 37203.

Pacific Northwest, April 28 — The meeting, held at King-TV Studio, consisted of a demonstration of the Fluke 9000 Series Microsystem Troubleshooter conducted by Jim Heany and Bill Erb, John Fluke Manufacturing Co. The system provides fast, effective, fault isolation in microprocessor-based printed circuit boards and systems. The system is capable of automatically checking the entire microprocessor kernel — Bus, Ram, Rom, and I/O — and the entire test can be initiated by a single keystroke. — Jack Butler (Chairman), King Broadcasting Co., P.O. Box 24525, Seattle, WA 98124.

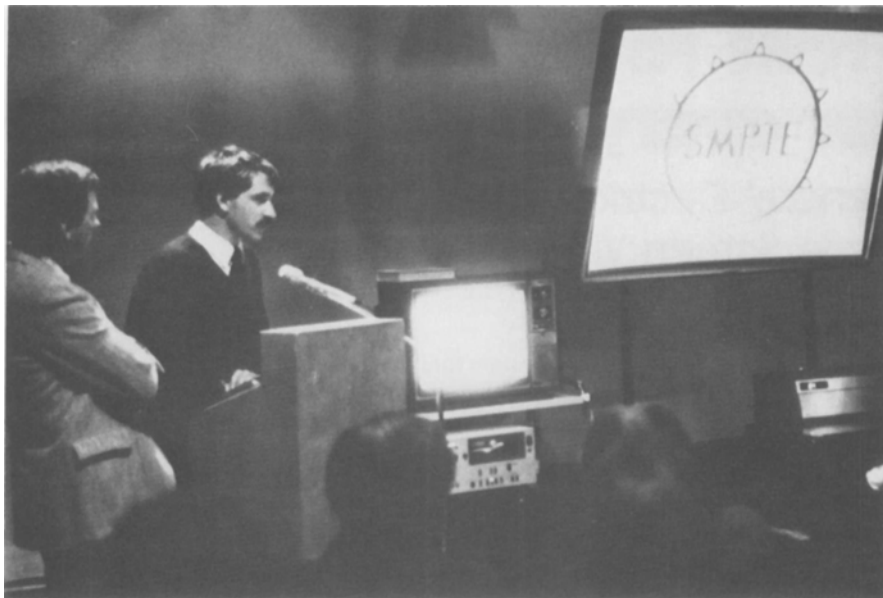
Philadelphia, May 3 — Kent Porter, Vice-President, Sigma Electronics, gave a presentation entitled "A Properly Timed Studio." He explained the need for RS-170 A in an editing system, emphasizing Sigma's approach to proper timing. He was assisted by John Lasek, Sigma's Chief Engineer.

A report on the NAB convention was given by five members. John Collins and Bill Weber, WHYY-TV, described exhibits of audio equipment, character generators, and cameras. Eric Address, E. J. Stewart Video, discussed HDTV. Len Donovan, Peirce Phelps, and Steve Tadzynski, Laurel Video, gave a brief rundown of exhibits they had found especially interesting.

The final event on the program was a tour of the WHYY-TV studios (where the meeting was held) conducted by John Collins and Bill Weber. The meeting was attended by 75 members and guests. —



The Toronto Section heard Wilson Markle describe colorization of black-and-white films.



Wilson Markle (L) assists Peter DaPrato as he shows a computerized drawing of the SMPTE logo at the Toronto Section meeting.

Michael Muderick (Secretary-Treasurer), Penn Mutual Life Insurance Co., 101 Earlington Rd., Havertown, PA 19083.

Toronto, April 19 — A paper entitled "Colourization" was presented by Wilson Markle, President, Mobile Image Canada Ltd. Through the use of a 3/4-in. videotape recorder, colorization of black-and-white films can be performed at still-frame, he reported. The process is film-to-television, or television-to-television, but not film-to-film. The computer has 4000 hues available for selection. The luminance signal is digitized and stored, and the computer determines the add-on color.

Peter DaPrato gave a paper entitled "Computer Graphics and Special Effects Using the Dubner Color Generator." The presentation included a playback of a videotape showing, with 32X magnification, the photographing and digitalizing function of the computer in cleaning, spacing, adjustment of characters, and animated colorization with the capability of 512 colors, based on RGB. A drawing of the SMPTE logo was created, using computer graphics.

A question-and-answer period followed the presentation. Following are a few of the questions and answers.

(1) Q. How long a time does the colorization process take? A. A 30-min black-and-white program requires about 40 hours on-line computer time, perhaps more, depending on the complexity of the picture details.

(2) Q. How do you control a high-contrast picture for colorization? A. Gamma control during the developing process can reduce the contrast, thus giving a better result for colorization.

(3) Q. Is it possible to clean up dirt and scratches? A. The process would be expensive for a long program, but would be worth it for short commercials.

(4) Q. What would be the cost for general colorization work? A. Approximately \$2000/min, but the cost may drop to \$300/min in the future.

The meeting was held at the Ryerson Polytechnical Institute with an attendance of 115 members and guests. — Fung F. Lam (Secretary-Treasurer), Sony of Canada Ltd., 411 Baker Rd., Willowdale, Ont., Canada M2H 2S6.

Washington, D.C., April 26 — Otto Claus, WBAL-TV, and Herman Badler, CBS, reported on the NAB Convention held in Las Vegas, April 10-13. Claus noted that 33,000 people were registered, and that the exhibit area covered 280,000 ft², accommodating 587 exhibitors.

Badler said that in his opinion this year's NAB convention showed that it was time for the industry to "catch its breath." Most exhibitors, the two reported, were showing refinements of products introduced at last year's NAB convention and the SMPTE conference, with only a few major breakthroughs or new product innovations.

Camera/recorder combinations for ENG/EFP continue to show improvements, with two manufacturers showing cameras using 1/4-in. cassette recorders. Also, two CCD cameras were demonstrated and showed excellent picture quality. Improvements in 1-in. VTRs and still-store devices were noted. Other equipment developments discussed by Claus and Badler included computer graphics systems, digital effects generators, computer-assisted editors, video monitors, microwave transmitters and receivers, switchers and audio synchronizers.

The Washington, D.C., Section is grateful to Hy and Otto for their efforts in assembling the information for this meeting. — Kenneth R. Knaus (Secretary-Treasurer), Eastman Kodak Co., 1555 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22209.

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