

San Francisco, September 16 — Seagoing media support was the topic for the meeting. Seventy-eight members and guests met for dinner at the Pier Inn before boarding Highland Laboratory's research vessel, the *Alert*, for the evening's program. Owner and skipper, Barry Brose, traced the *Alert*'s history since her decommissioning by the Coast Guard and purchase by Highland Laboratory. The ship has had a varied career, including such diverse activities as Bay pollution studies and CBS News documentary production.

The *Alert*'s participation in media events over the years was traced by a series of videotapes that were shown below decks in the galley. Following Brose's presentation, visitors toured the ship while it went for a two-hour cruise from Pier 31 in San Francisco, under Bay Bridge, around Angel Island, and back past Tiburon and Sausalito. All those present expressed appreciation for Highland Laboratory's generosity, and agreed that this was one of the most outstanding events arranged by the San Francisco Section. — Glen Pensinger (Chairman), San Jose University, 958 Jeanne Ave., San Jose, CA 94304.

Toronto, September 20 — Leonard Green, assistant director, technical and production services, National Film Board of Canada, spoke on "The National Film Board: Past and Present." He gave an interesting summary of many of the highlights in the history of the National Film Board's technical operations. Complementing his paper, Green made excellent use of slides. The visuals consisted of two synchronized, side-by-side frames, often showing a picture and explanatory material simultaneously. The presentation was both informative and entertaining, as he described some of the unusual conditions prevailing during the early days of the Board. At the close of his talk, Green answered a number of questions from the audience. Following the presentation, a reception was provided by VTR Productions Ltd., and guided tours of the various operations of VTR Productions and Eastern Sound were conducted. — Howard E. Wilkinson (Past Chairman), Canadian Broadcasting Corp., P.O. Box 500, Terminal "A," Toronto, Ont., Canada M5W 1E6.

Washington, DC, September 27 — The meeting was held at WNVC and WNVT-TV, Falls Church, Va., with an attendance of 40 members and guests. A tour of the facility was followed by a discussion of the history and objectives of both stations, presented by Dan Ward, general manager, WNVC-TV. WNVT is an educational television station, servicing the schools of northern Virginia. WNVC is a public television station (not PBS) covering federal, state, and local affairs. Both stations are non-profit. — Arthur Florack (Publicity Chairman, Washington, DC Section).

NEWS

Audio Engineering Society Holds 74th Technical Meeting

The 74th Technical Meeting of the Audio Engineering Society was held October 8-12, 1983, at the New York Hilton Hotel. This was an unusually rewarding meeting — more than 70 papers were presented at 10 technical sessions. Nine workshops were conducted, and there were special events, including a digital audio tutorial seminar and a compact disk presentation. In addition, a well-attended equipment exhibit, which filled the entire exhibit area, featured the latest products of 50 manufacturers.

The theme of the meeting was "Exploring the Digital and Analog Domains of Today and Tomorrow." Topics of the technical sessions were: Digital Recording and Broadcasting; Signal Processing — Analog; Studio Design; Sound Reinforcement; Loudspeakers — Network Considerations; Loudspeakers — Transducers and Low-Frequency System Alignments; Signal Processing — Digital; Psychoacoustics and Subjective Testing; Test and Measurement; Disk Recording and Multichannel Sound.

The nine workshops covered Hands-On Digital; Economics of Operating a Recording Studio; Microphone Techniques for Stereo Video Production; SMPTE Code and Synchronizing; Console Troubleshooting; Audio Production Techniques for Major Motion Pictures; Multitrack Tape Machine Maintenance; Recording Techniques for the Digital Age; and Grounding and Shielding.

Among the special events, the digital audio tutorial seminar conducted by Ken Pohlmann, University of Miami, Fla., provided information on many aspects of digital technology. The Monday afternoon workshop on SMPTE code and synchronizing stressed the practical approach. The workshop included a panel discussion moderated by Richard Mack, National Recording Studios/Video Center, New York, which was followed by simultaneous hands-on equipment demonstrations.

The workshop on audio production techniques for major motion pictures, chaired by Tomlinson Holman, Lucasfilm Ltd., was held at the Ziegfeld Theater. The workshop covered recording and mixing techniques for the dialog, music, and sound effects on a motion-picture soundtrack. As an illustration, the first reel of *Star Wars*, with the original production sound, was played to show how much work was required to produce the finished product. Next, the finished version was shown, then the production pro-

cess was explained in detail, with slides and film illustrating the presentation.

Presentation Systems for Film and Television, a 14-week course sponsored by the USC School of Cinema-Television and the SMPTE Hollywood Section has been announced by Don McCrosky, Hollywood Section's education committee chairman. Classes will begin Wednesday, January 11, 1984, and will be held on Wednesday evenings through April 18.

The course will examine modern presentation systems for film and television from very large screen theater and stadium displays for entertainment and sports, to small screen delivery systems. There will be special emphasis on related sound systems and the latest technological developments in film and video formats for instructional, industrial, and scientific applications, including teleconferencing systems, scanning systems for medical and technical information, interactive video disk systems, surround visuals, multimedia, and other presentation systems.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology has announced plans to establish an Interactive Video Laboratory. Equipment has been donated by Ampex Corp. Long a leader in developing new technologies in film and video, MIT intends to explore possibilities for computer/video systems to be used interactively with human beings in multimedia performance.

The RCA Solid State Technology Center has been transferred to the Government Systems Div. in a move to strengthen RCA's position in the areas of aerospace and defense. The Solid State Technology Center, located in Somerville, N.J., employs approximately 200 engineers and support personnel. Its principal function is to translate basic research efforts of RCA Laboratories into various materials and processes that can be utilized in products and systems involving new concepts.

Lucasfilm Ltd. and Convergence Corp. have formed a joint venture company to produce and market an advanced video editing system for both film- and video-style editing. The new editing product, called EdDroid, incorporates computer technology and human engineering to create a film-oriented videotape/disk system.

Number 1 TV Inc. has acquired General TV Network which has become a wholly-owned subsidiary, according to a recent

announcement. Number 1 TV builds and operates television stations and supplies programming. General TV will continue to provide programming to both full- and low-power television stations throughout the U.S.

The solid state broadcast telecine manufactured by Rank Cintel will be marketed by RCA as the RCA TKS-100 pursuant to an agreement signed by RCA's Broadcast Systems Div. and Rank Cintel Ltd. The agreement gives RCA non-exclusive rights to market NTSC, PAL, and SECAM versions of the telecine worldwide. Rank Cintel Ltd. will also market the telecine as the ADS 1 through its own worldwide outlets.

Plastic Reel Corp. has opened a new, larger sales and warehousing center at 365 E. Illinois St., Chicago, Ill. The firm manufactures plastic reels, cans, shipping and storage cases, and related products for the film and video industries.

Porta-Pattern Inc. has moved to much larger headquarters and production facilities at 750 N. Highland Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90038. The firm was formerly located at 6822 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles. Porta-Pattern manufactures test materials for video, film, and optical instrument setup and alignment.

Center City Studios, 32 W. Randolph St., Chicago, Ill. officially opened its doors on October 17, 1983. It occupies the 14th and 15th floors of the building which had previously been the site of the old Oriental Theatre. The new facility will be primarily engaged in television programming, with emphasis on cable TV.

An equipment show and open house with exhibits from 70 manufacturers was held September 21-23, 1983, at the 45,000-ft² facility of Swiderski Electronics in Elk Grove Village, Ill. The event included hands-on demonstrations of the equipment on display. Among the exhibitors were Bosch/Fernseh, Datamax, EECO, and The Grass Valley Group which provided a full demonstration on their fiber optics transmission system.

Ted Dickson has been named sales engineer for Sony Broadcast Products Co. His sales territory will include all areas west of the Rocky Mountains, and he will be responsible for direct marketing to state and local governments. He was formerly district manager of Sony Video Communications Div., Los Angeles.

John Webb, Jr., has joined Ikegami (USA) Inc. as sales manager for networks, special accounts, and sales in Canada. He will be responsible for the sale of broadcast and color CCTV products.

Webb was formerly northeast regional sales manager with the Fernseh Div. of Robert Bosch Corp.

W. Arnold Taylor has been appointed executive vice-president, marketing and sales, for the Broadcast and Professional Video Products, Test and Measurement, and Visual Products Divisions, Hitachi Denshi America Ltd., Woodbury, NY. Taylor was formerly vice-president, marketing, RCA Commercial Communications Systems Div.



Gerow D. Brill has been appointed national sales manager for Clear-Com Intercom Systems, 1111 17th St., San Francisco, CA 94107. Brill was formerly with Philips Broadcast Equipment Corp. as product manager, and most recently, with Ampex Corp. as senior product manager, Camera Products Div. In his new post, he will conduct a series of dealer/consultant seminars throughout the country.



OBITUARIES



Frank P. Brackett

Frank P. Brackett, A Life Fellow of the SMPTE, died July 22, 1983, after a brilliant career of service to the industry and to the SMPTE. He was 77 years of age. At the time of his death, he was a participating member of two SMPTE engineering

committees — Film Technology and Laboratory Services, on both of which he had served for many years.

Brackett attended Pomona College, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa in 1927, graduating *magna cum laude* in 1928. He did graduate work at Harvard University, receiving the Ph.D. degree in 1933. His college training centered mainly around motion-picture technology, with emphasis on chemistry, optics, and laboratory techniques. His doctoral dissertation was on "Photochemical Processes in the Ultraviolet."

With the exception of two years at Paramount Laboratory (1933-1935), Brackett's entire professional career had been with Technicolor, Hollywood. He retired in 1972 as director of research. After retirement from Technicolor, he became a consulting engineer, working from his home in North Hollywood, Calif. As a consultant, he specialized in motion-picture laboratory techniques and photochemical process evaluation.

Brackett became a member of the SMPTE in 1944, and he was made a Fellow in 1967. In 1974, he received the Kalmus Award "in recognition of outstanding

leadership during the 37 years of his technical direction at Technicolor, Inc. in the advancement of the science of color in motion pictures."

Among other activities, he was program chairman for the 112th SMPTE Conference, held in Los Angeles in 1972, and topic chairman-at-large for the 117th Conference, held in 1975.

He became a member of the color committee in 1967, serving as its chairman from 1967 through 1971. In 1976, a reorganization of the engineering and technologies committees took place to conform to advancements in technology. Brackett then became a member of the Film Technology Committee. He was a member also of the Laboratory Practices Committee (later re-named the Laboratory Services Committee).

He authored a number of technical papers which were published in various scientific journals. Among those published in the *SMPTE Journal* were "Analytical Benefits of Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometric Methods" (October, 1967), and "A Method for Reporting Exposure on Motion-Picture Color Negatives" (September, 1970).