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# SECTION MEETINGS

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**Atlanta, November 14, 1983** — The 31 members of the audience were given the opportunity to observe first-hand Ampex's new state-of-the-art 1-in. VTRs. Earl Higgins and Bill Carpenter, Ampex Corp., demonstrated the VPR-5, a portable machine, and the ultra-sophisticated VPR-3. It was the first time the VPR-3 had been shown publicly in the southeast. Higgins and Carpenter gave detailed descriptions of the two machines and enhanced their talks with a slide presentation.

Members of the Atlanta Section who had attended the 125th SMPTE Technical Conference in Los Angeles then showed slides of the equipment exhibit and discussed the conference activities for the benefit of members who had not been there. — John F. Swanson (Secretary-Treasurer), Cox Communications Inc., 1601 Peachtree St., N.E., Atlanta, GA 30309.

**Dallas/Fort Worth, November 19, 1983** — Vern McClish, Polaroid, demonstrated Polaroid's digital and analog hard-copy cameras, both 8×10 and 35-mm format, using computer-generated graphics as the source and Polachrome as the end product.

James C. Davies, Inflight Services, Inc., demonstrated the V-Star 4C video projector interfacing both video and RGB sources. Darrell Ward, Hypergraphics Inc., demonstrated software for computer-generated graphics. — Sam Stalos (Secretary-Treasurer), Spectrum Image System, 11034 Dennis, Dallas, TX 75229.

**Detroit, November 17, 1983** — Bruce Keplin, Eastman Kodak Co., gave a slide presentation on a paper covering recent advances in motion-picture film by Dr. Judith Schwan, Kodak Research Labs. Also discussed were the possibilities of T-grain technology in the motion-picture and television industries, and the potential in the interface of film and electronics.

Kenneth Knaus gave a slide presentation on a paper by Ronald E. Uhlig, Eastman Kodak Co., entitled "Technical Experience with Datakode Magnetic Control Surface." Knaus summarized the research and development leading to equipment and techniques for using Datakode since its introduction in 1982. Question-and-answer periods followed each presentation.

The meeting closed with a demonstration film on Eastman's new 7294 color negative film. — Stan Nalski (Secretary-Treasurer), Film Craft Labs Inc., 66 Sibley, Detroit, MI 48201.

**Nashville, November 17, 1983** — Blaine Baker, SMPTE financial vice-president, presented a plaque to Russel McCown, Nashville section chairman, for McCown's many years of outstanding service in the motion-picture and television industries. Baker then reported on the 125th SMPTE conference held in Los Angeles.

Next on the program was Graham Goodall, MCI/Sony Pro-Audio, who described and demonstrated Sony's newest Beta-Max high-fidelity stereo recorder, and showed a short tape of *Flashdance*, with emphasis on the audio.

Following Goodall's presentation, Duane Miur, Nashville State Tech., showed and discussed his series of tapes on basic video recording and color systems. — Bill Watson (Secretary-Treasurer), 640 Merritt, Memphis, TN 38128.

**Ottawa, November 16, 1983** — The subject of the meeting was "A Modern Post-Production Editing Facility." The facility, described by Austin Reeve, vice-president, engineering, Bushnell Communications, John Galt, design coordinator, and Chris Mallam, senior editor, had been installed at Carleton Productions.

Reeve described the system design. There was a need, he said, for integration of the suite into a broadcast facility; equipment capable of slow motion, freeze frame, dual audio, and time code; 3/4-in. off-line equipment that can mimic the editing of the on-line equipment; a switcher with learning capability; machinery that is visible, but in a separate soundproof room; an editing room that incorporates an attractive design and meets SMPTE standards of monitor viewing; and a separate room for clients in close proximity to the suite.

For maximum versatility in incorporating sources and combinations of machines in editing, a 20×24-matrix video and three-audio routing switcher was installed. In addition, the suite contains four Sony 1-in. Type-C VTRs, three Sony BVU 820's, one Sony BVU 800, a Grass Valley 1680 switcher with cumulative keyers and effects memory, an Interactive Systems Corp. computer editing controller, and a Graham-Patten stereo audio console.

The installation had to be considered in relation to grounding and power distribution requirements, acoustic treatment, and incorporation of an Ampex Digital Optics effects unit and a Chyron 4 character generator.

Mallam described the operational requirements and versatility of the system.

The computer editor operates from two 8-in. single-sided, double-density floppy disks, capable of handling any combination of seven recorders and playback machines. An advantage of the ICS system is that it can interface directly with the video switcher, and controls the machines in play, freeze frame, and one speed of slow-motion playback.

Mallam also described the trace program, which essentially rewrites the edit command for final execution, following any number of changes and updates in the off-line procedure. Editing requirements necessitated the availability of color framing of all sources for accurate animation and pickup edits. Audio lines are also phased since some stereo production is done.

Galt described the "mimic" editing system. Essentially, the 3/4-in. off-line equipment is capable of all the functions that the 1-in. machines perform. Because of this, it is possible to create an off-line product that can illustrate incorporated production effects inexpensively. When all the decisions have been made, on-line 1-in. editing is quickly accomplished. Galt described the new edit suite as "the electronic equivalent of an optical house."

Following the coffee break, members and guests were given a tour of the editing facilities. — Ross Mutton (Chairman), Carleton University, Colonel By Dr., Ottawa, Canada K1S 5B6.

**Rochester, November 16, 1983** — The first event on the program, held at Eastman Kodak's Little Theater, was a short film, *Ballet Robotique*, shown to a near-capacity audience. The film, produced by Bob Rogers Productions, was made from outtakes left from a movie produced for General Motors Corp. It was filmed entirely in GM assembly plants in actual production, and consists of four segments showing different types of robots with their motions set to ballet music. The film has received numerous international awards and was nominated for an Academy Award in the last competition.

Dr. Harold Schulte, Bell Laboratories, then showed slides on "Fiber Optics for Data Transmission," an excellent presentation on the transatlantic cable (TAT-8-SL). The fiber optic cable will run via repeaters from the New Jersey coast to England, France, and Spain. Completion is scheduled for 1988.

The presentation provided a vivid insight into the various technical problems encountered when using a submarine-type fiber optic communications cable. Slides illustrated the various techniques used to overcome dispersion problems. Also shown was a diagram of the fiber optic repeaters that are spaced every 30 to 50 km along the cable. Graphic illustrations of the H O effect on the SL-8 cable were also presented.

The slides illustrated a specially

designed German-built ship used in the cable-laying operation. Schulte explained the various effects of pressure, temperature, and sea water on the fiber optic system. He showed a diagram of a cross-section of the cable with its six fiber optic cables and their supporting hardware. A 6-in. sample of the cable was passed among the audience to show its structure. — R. J. Erskine (Secretary-Treasurer), 168 Vinedale Ave., Rochester, NY 14622.

#### **Rocky Mountain, October 20, 1983** —

The meeting was featured as an Engineer's Potpourri. Jack Bowan, Firetest Inc., presented the first part of the program, speaking about fire prevention and the use of halon fire fighting systems in TV control rooms and other equipment-filled areas.

He demonstrated the effectiveness of halon by slowly placing a lighted match in a wastebasket that had just been sprayed with halon gas. The flame-retarding effect upon the match was obvious and immediate. Halon systems are indicated for equipment areas because halon smothers the fire at the point of the flame and does not damage anything else with which it comes in contact.

The second part of the program was conducted by Dave Smith, Westmark, who showed three training films illustrating various methods of repairing printed circuit boards by soldering/desoldering techniques. After the films were shown, equipment and materials were made available for some hands-on experience with these techniques. — Donna D. Zingelman (Secretary-Treasurer), Audio Visual Concepts, 558 South Swadley St., Lakewood, CO 80228.

#### **Rocky Mountain, November 17, 1983** —

Rome Chelsi, Hitachi Denshi, Ltd., provided a fascinating look at advanced video technology through the use of two new Hitachi professional video cameras, the SX-1 MOS, and the SK-970 with its companion, SK-97. The SK-1 MOS camera is lightweight and solid state. Its features include no registration error, no geometric distortion, and no image retention. It has 49-dB SNR, genlock, and low power consumption.

Components of the SK-970 and SK-97 are interchangeable. It is a completely automated system with manual override, and is operated by a microcomputer. The camera can be adjusted by independent

controls at the camera head. It is capable of fully automatic setup in less than 2 min, and also of simultaneous setup of up to 96 cameras.

Features of the system were demonstrated through the use of a video projection unit for viewing. The ability of the camera to maintain its registration between telephoto and closeup shots was illustrated. There were visual displays in the camera's viewfinder of any function fallout of a normal operating parameter, e.g., "temperature warning." — Donna D. Zingelman (Secretary-Treasurer), Audio Visual Concepts, 558 South Swadley St., Lakewood, CO 80228.

#### **Washington, D.C., November 19, 1983** —

The meeting was held at the Davis Planetarium of the Maryland Science Center. *Spacequest*, a multi-image look at past, present, and future space travel, was shown. A tour was conducted through the extensive production facilities, and the projection equipment required to make and present the complex computer-operated productions was explained by Dan Zirpoli, Planetarium director. — Art Florack (Publicity Chairman), 4519 Gilbertson Rd., Fairfax, VA 22032.

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# NEWS

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**The electronic transmission of microfilm images** will be the next step in the evolution of image and information-handling technology, according to James Wozniak, Eastman Kodak Co. Wozniak spoke at the Videodisk/Optical Disk conference held in New York City in September, 1983.

"To leapfrog into optical disk from microfilm without an interlocking technology means that today's microfilm-based information systems will not be able to interact with new optical disk systems," he said. He told the audience that Kodak's market research indicates strong demand for a microimage transmission system.

**The new Hoek & Sonéponse building in Diemen, Holland**, was officially opened September 30, 1983. More than 400 guests attended the opening ceremony. Equipment in the new on-line editing room includes a CMX 340 editing computer, Philips Video-80 color caption camera, and a Quantafont Q-7A character generator. A Philips LDK-14 SL broadcast camera and Sony VPH-1020 video-projector have also been added to

the new facility, which offers complete video post-production operations.

**RCA's Broadcast Systems Div.** has announced relocation of its headquarters and consolidation of several operations in a new building in Gibbsboro, N.J. The following operations will move to the new building before the end of the year: transmitter engineering and assembly; custom repair, engineering, and mobile TV unit implementation; and technical training and transmitter/antenna product management.

The new facility provides 30,000 ft<sup>2</sup> of office space, 84,000 ft<sup>2</sup> of production space, and 24,000 ft<sup>2</sup> of warehouse space. The division is now known as the RCA Broadcast Systems Div., and is located at the Paint Works Corporate Center, Gibbsboro, NJ 08026.

**A World Broadcasters RF Committee for the 1984 Los Angeles Summer Olympic Games** has been established by ABC-TV, the host broadcaster. The committee will coordinate all radio frequency activity for

U.S. and world radio and television broadcasters planning news coverage of the games.

ABC-TV, under temporary authorization from the FCC, has been assigned the UHF television spectrum from 482 to 488 MHz to handle requests for operational communications channels. All broadcasters requiring communication channels will be assigned dedicated frequencies in this spectrum for their use during the games. Microwave requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis, so that existing Los Angeles-area ICR and STL links and related Olympic microwave operations will be ensured protection.

Further information is available from Michael L. LoCollo, chairman, World Broadcasters RF Committee, ABC-TV, 1313 N. Vine St., Hollywood, CA 90028.

**J. Lampert Levy**, Newsfilm Laboratory, Inc., Los Angeles, was re-elected president of the Association of Cinema & Video Laboratories. Other elected officers are: Blaine Baker, Motion Picture Labs., Memphis, Tenn., first vice-president; Robert J. Ringer, Image Transform Inc., Hollywood, second vice-president; James A. Merkle, Allied Film Laboratory Inc., Detroit, treasurer; Burton Stone, Deluxe Laboratories Inc., Hollywood, secretary; and Dudley Spruill, Washington, D.C., reappointed executive secretary.