

Section Meetings

Atlanta, June 8 — The ultra-modern programming facility of WSOC-TV, Charlotte, N.C., was the site of this final section meeting of the season. Paul Hansil, Ampex Corp., presented a 3½-hour program on machine device control, using SMPTE RS-422 serial data communications.

In his demonstration, Hansil explained the use of a master-controller, the computer editor communicating to VTRs, switchers, and digital effects. Commands are "timed" using SMPTE time code. These commands, or instructions, are inputted to the computer editor via a keyboard. The time-line method is utilized for edit control. With the time-line system, the editor gives an instruction to an intelligent device, which stores the data and then reacts when the time comes to carry out the instruction.

Hansil pointed out that the time-line method differs from other systems where the device (i.e., the VTR) must rely on the editor to do all its timing and housekeeping functions. Using the time-line method, instructions can be sent to a device ahead of time, and more devices and complex instructions can be utilized. The Ampex Creative Command Center — consisting of an ACE Micro Editor; 4100 Series production switcher; VPR-3, VPR-6, and VPR-80 videotape recorders; and Ampex Digital Optics (ADO) — was used in the demonstration.

Following the presentation, Merle Thomas, chief engineer, WSOC-TV, gave some 40 SMPTE members and guests a tour of the facilities, thus providing them with an opportunity to see the latest in television production equipment. — Earl

V. Higgins (Secretary-Treasurer), Ampex Corp., 1872 Montreal Rd., Tucker, GA 30084.

Florida/Caribbean, April 23 — Colin Parkhill and Paul Higgenbottom, RCA Corp., demonstrated the ½-in. highband M-format VTRs and showed a comparison tape of 1-in. versus ½-in. during this meeting at Image Communications, Tampa, Fla. Forty-two members and guests, including SMPTE Sections Vice-President Si Becker, attended. Linda Lord, who along with Bob Emory represented Image Communications, conducted a tour and demonstrated the new ½-in. editing facilities. — M. A. McDaniels (Chairman), Martin-Marietta Corp., 2819 Harriett Dr., Orlando, FL 32806.

San Francisco, June 27 — Jim Diner, Diner/Allied Film & Tape, began the meeting, held at Diner/Allied's new facility, with an overview of wet-lab technique, stressing the need for communication between the processing lab and the filmmaker. Roy Diner then presented "Positive Thoughts about Negative," showing side-by-side examples of pushed vs. non-pushed negative, optical vs. contact printing, and interpositive vs. dupe negative mastering. With the demise of EF and ECO stocks, many filmmakers are looking for alternative camera stocks. Roy Diner made suggestions concerning the differences between reversal and negative for shooting, handling, and cutting, as many reversal filmmakers are choosing negative as an option to the discontinued stocks.



Mike Ellis speaking on electronic color-correction techniques at the Toronto Section meeting.

John Carlson, Monaco Labs, then showed side-by-side examples of 7390 and 7399 print stocks and discussed their use as well as Monaco's future processing of the discontinued stocks. A tour of Diner/Allied's new facility completed the evening. — John A. Carlson (Secretary-Treasurer), Monaco Labs, 234 Ninth St., San Francisco, CA 94103.

Toronto, June 11 — Jerry Ayers, Ampex Corp., began the meeting, held at VTR Productions, with a paper entitled, "Some Design Considerations for Post-Production Switchers." The paper described the facilities generally required for on-air-type video switchers and those needed for switchers used in automated editing systems.

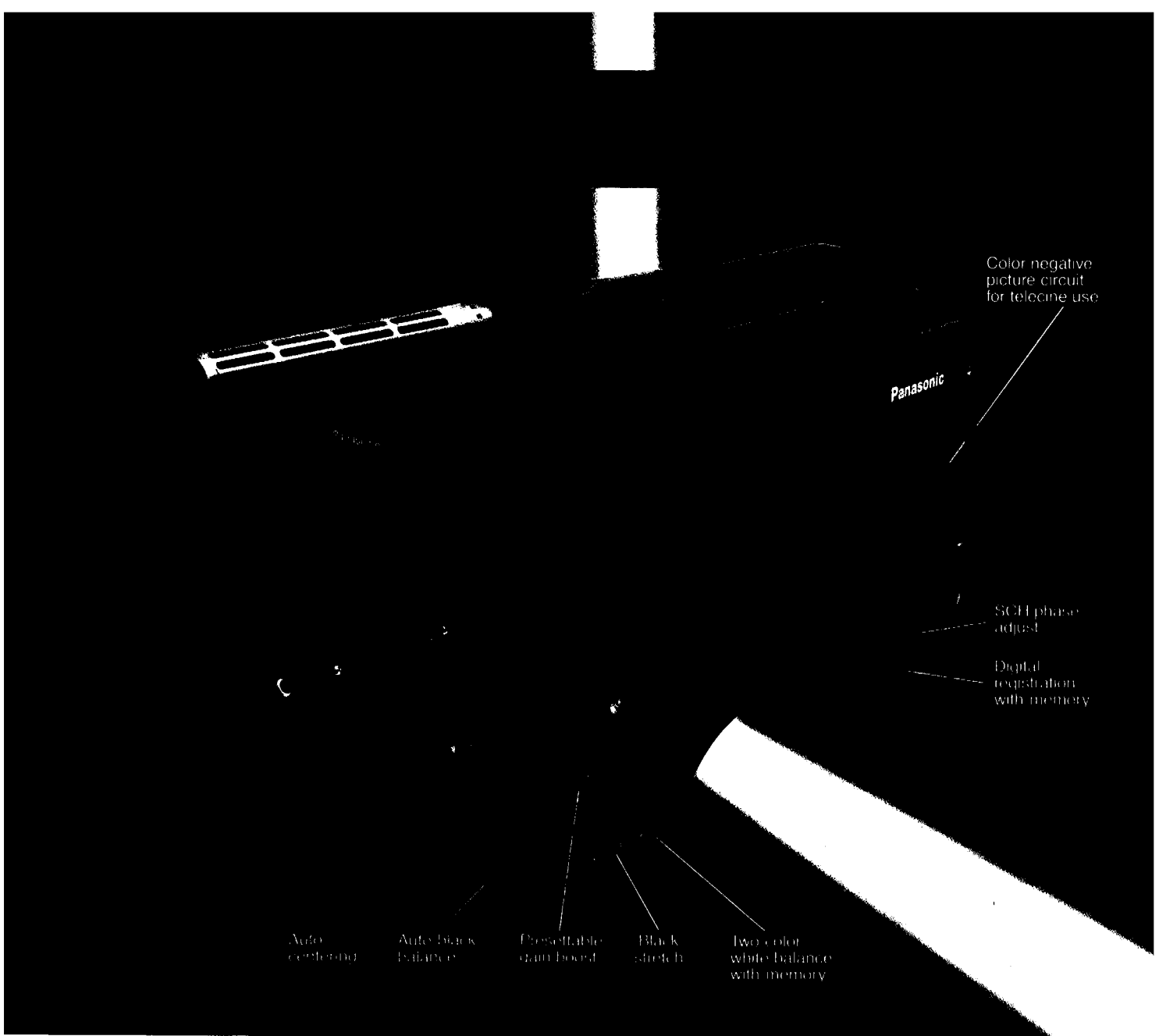
Mike Ellis, VTR Productions, then spoke on the range of color-correction capabilities in the system installed at his firm. The presentation was prerecorded on 1-in. videotape and replayed to the audience of more than 70 members and guests. The VTR Duplicating Centre was made available for tours following the presentations. — Stephen Cook (Secretary-Treasurer), 45 Smithwood Dr., Islington, Ont., Canada M90B 4S1.

Washington, D.C., June 12 — A glimpse of the new facility of Flight Three Recordings, Inc., Baltimore, Md., was the agenda for this meeting. The studio is the largest film and videotape recording facility in the mid-Atlantic area. Frank Ayd, Jr., Rick Seaby, and Bobby Wright showed the size of the room and some of the firm's state-of-the-art mobile equipment. The stage, one of two major stages in the building, held a semi-trailer truck at one end during the exhibition.

The 55 members and guests who attended joined Flight Three's officers and managers at a dutch-treat dinner preceding the meeting and toured the facility after the presentation. — Arthur Florack (Secretary-Treasurer), Eastman Kodak Co., 1555 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22209.



Paul Hansil demonstrates machine device control using SMPTE RS-422 serial data communications at the Atlanta Section meeting.



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