

Section Meetings

Florida/Caribbean, June 17 — An analysis of MII system technology and NEC America's new electronic camera shutter were the two topics for the meeting, hosted by WXFL-TV, Tampa, Fla. A total of 106 SMPTE members and guests turned out.

The first speaker on the meeting program was Phil Livingston of Panasonic Broadcast Systems, the company which designed the MII system. Livingston's presentation included equipment demonstrations of Panasonic's AU 400 camera recorder, AU 500 field recorder, and AU 650 studio recorder. Livingston was later joined by Eric Pohl, a member of the NBC task force which selected the MII, and both fielded questions from interested meeting attendees.

The other part of the program was given over to a demonstration, by NEC's Richard Dienhart, of the company's new camera shutter. As was shown, the electronic shutter offers high-quality image resolution at speeds from $1/125$ to $1/2000$ of a second. Dienhart also showed tapes of the shutter's various applications. — Ralph Bevins (Secretary/Treasurer), FILMS, P.O. Box 1835, Longwood, FL 32750.

Houston, June 18 — Forty SMPTE members and their guests turned out at Texas Film Studios, in Houston, to see a series of demonstrations on the innovative applications of camera support equipment. With a full complement of support equipment at their disposal, Scott Smith, Ben Pearlman, Bob Poimbeauf, Chris Meyers, and Jaroslav Vodehnal demonstrated a variety of camera movements. Smith, Pearlman, and Vodehnal then explained how crab dollies, spider dollies, cranes, and other support equipment are constructed and utilized. Following the presentations, the meeting attendees informally toured

Motion Picture Services and Cinemachanics, each of which is within walking distance of Texas Film Studios. — Robert B. Musburger (Secretary/Treasurer), School of Commerce, Univ. of Houston, Houston, TX 77004.

Nashville, July 17 — The meeting, attended by 40 SMPTE members and their guests, took place at Kingswood/UM-Com Studios in Nashville, Tenn. The program opened with a 15-minute AV presentation on the life of Vilmars Zile, the Latvian native who practiced film production while his homeland was under Russian and German occupation. Following the interesting slide show, SMPTE Financial Vice-President Blaine Baker, Motion Picture Laboratories, Inc., took the podium to announce Vitmar's election to Life Membership in the Society.

On the technical side, Kingswood/UM-Com's Tony Pilversack discussed digital sound, and then demonstrated Midi control on his own digital sound machine. Sam Tritico and Doug Roberts, both from the Music Man Shop in Nashville, followed with a demonstration of the Emulator II. They showed how the Emulator could be interlocked with a Fostex 16-track tape recorder with SMPTE time code. — Duane Muir (Chairman), Nashville Tech., 120 White Bridge Rd., Nashville, TN 37209.

New York, September 9 — Two subjects, the all-digital studio and analog components, were covered at this meeting, which took place at the studios of NBC, Inc., New York City. More than 250 persons were in attendance.

Michael Taylor of Quantel Corp., Palo Alto, Calif., gave the presentation on the all-digital studio. His paper described how Quantel's Harry random access digi-

tal recorder, Encore 2-D digital image manipulator, and Paintbox electronic graphics system incorporate the SMPTE component digital standard. Taylor offered an in-depth presentation of the Harry in the second portion of his paper, demonstrating the entire editing process from the created digital format to the final version.

In the second half of the program, Merrill Weiss of NBC presented an overview of analog components. Weiss' paper described the acceptance of analog components in both the signal and recording process. The speaker also discussed what the future holds for analog components. Following the two technical presentations, Charles Jablonski, NBC, gave the meeting attendees a tour of the television network's technical facility. — Charles H. Jablonski (Secretary/Treasurer), NBC, Inc., 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10020.

Rochester, June 10 — Len Green, retired from the National Film Board of Canada, discussed the results of a research program, begun in 1984 by the Film Board and Imax Systems Corp., to perfect the presentation of 3-D motion pictures in the *Imax 70mm format*. Incorporating slides and a demonstration film to complement his paper, Green described the design and development of the unique camera structure to support two Imax cameras in the 3-D configuration. According to Green, several mounting and stabilization concerns had to be considered in the overall design. The system's use of numerous remote controls, with a television system as a viewfinder, were also discussed. Following the technical presentation, the 35 SMPTE members and guests assembled at Eastman Kodak Co. had the opportunity to ask questions. — Philip C. Vogel (Secretary/Treasurer), Eastman Kodak Co., 343 State St., Rochester, NY 14650.

San Francisco, June 30 — Michael Taylor and Dennis Cookinham, both of Quantel, Inc., discussed the digital video component format before an assembly of 75 at KQED-TV, San Francisco, Calif. The speakers explained that component digital offers a universal solution to the problem faced by producers in having to convert video formats.

Throughout the talk, the speakers utilized the Quantel digital edit suite to illustrate their remarks. They also went on to show the meeting attendees sample clips of television advertising spots done on the Quantel system. — Peter Hammer (Secretary/Treasurer), Ampex Museum of Magnetic Recording, 22400 Skyline Blvd., La Honda, CA 94020.



Mike Taylor of Quantel responds to questions at the June 30 meeting of the San Francisco Section.