Section Meetings

Atlanta, December 9, 1985 — Jim McGinnis, regional sales manager, Panasonic Broadcast Products, made a presentation on Matsushita's M-II ½-in. recording format. The meeting took place at Panasonic's new facility in Atlanta, with 25 SMPTE members and their guests in attendance.

Matsushita, explained McGinnis, was commissioned by the Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK) to produce a small-format recording system to replace some 400 quad VTR machines. NHK set forth to Matsushita a series of design goals, including cassette use, multi-generation capability, and multi-audio. McGinnis outlined these design goals before moving on to a discussion of the basic technology of the M-II. In a demonstration of equipment, McGinnis detailed some of the operating features: noiseless slow and still, editing capability, built-in TBC, 90-min play time, and search speeds. He also explained the plug compatibility between Matsushita's M format and the M-II. A fifth-generation M-II tape was shown, and a live recording was made on site. — Bebe F. McClain (Secretary/Treasurer), B. F. McClain Productions Inc., P.O. Box 5813, Asheville, NC 28803.

Chicago, November 10, 1985 — Richard Thomas, Eastman Kodak Co., demonstrated his company's Eastman color high-speed negative film 7292, the product designed to replace Eastman color high-speed negative film 7294. Approximately 50 persons were in attendance at the Marriott Hotel in Chicago, Ill. As explained by Thomas, the 7292 incorporates *T*-grain technology in a 16mm format. Using demonstration reels, the guest speaker showed the new film's improved graininess and sharpness. — Gilbert L. Blew (Publicity), Eastman Kodak Co., 1901 W. 22nd St., Oak Brook, IL 60521.

Florida/Caribbean, December 17, 1985 — Three guest speakers from Florida Film & Tape made presentations at their firm's facility in Orlando, Fla. Brad Fuller, president, briefly outlined the history of the company, and showed the 26 persons in attendance a reel of FF&T's recent productions. The next speaker, David Varnadoe, manager of the Video Dept., demonstrated the new Panacam video camera and discussed some of the production techniques it offers. Then Jack Tinsley, executive producer of FF&T, spoke on the future directions of the industry. — Ralph S. Bevins (Secretary/Treasurer), Martin Marietta Aerospace, P.O. Box 3162, Orlando, FL 32802.

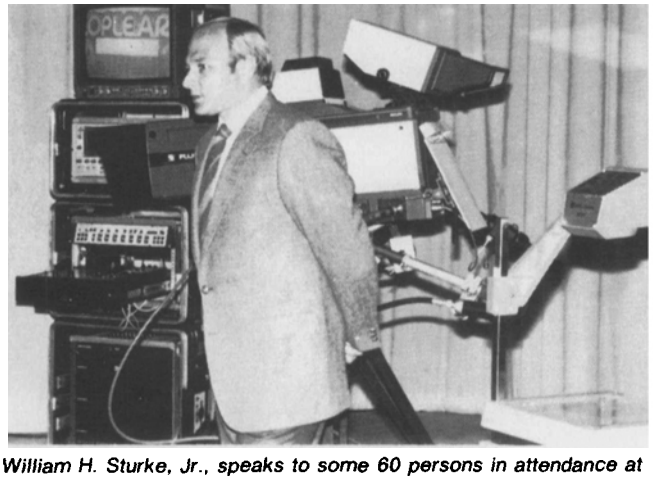
New England, September 12, 1985 — A total of 120 members and their guests attended this meeting, held at Century III Teleproductions, Boston, Mass. Six persons from the staff of Century III made presentations. After Richard Parent, vice-president, post-production, outlined the growth and development of the Century III facility, the audience was divided into five groups. Each group had an opportunity to visit five different points of interest within the facility.

Rob Hill, vice-president, audio post-production, who staffs one area, discussed and demonstrated his company's Mix-to-Pix audio mixing system. Robert Lovejoy, senior colorist, demonstrated the Bosch-Fernsch CCD telecine system and the peripheral color-corrector devices used in the Film-to-Tape Dept. Eli Constantine, editorial director, assigned to Century III's Super Suite, demonstrated digital effects, ADO, and multi-machine source editing. Miguel Muelle, design director, presented the Bosch FGS-4000 computer-based 3-D graphics system. A demonstration of the Quantel Paintbox system was given by Ron Pearl, art director. Following the tours, everyone reunited for a lively question-and-answer session. — Paul R. Beck (Secretary/Treasurer), Emerson College, 71 Cross St., Foxboro, MA 02035.

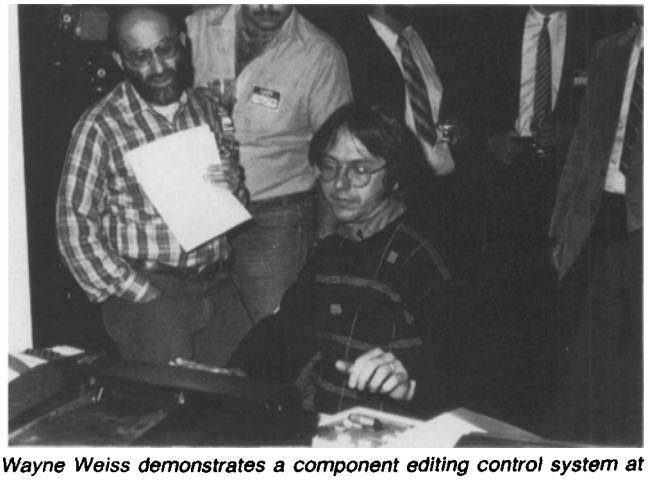
Two members participate in a technical presentation in the Super Suite of the Century III Teleproductions facility at the September 12 New England Section meeting. Seated is Eli Constantine.

New England, October 9, 1985 — The topic for the meeting, held at WBZ-TV, Boston, was the LDK-6, a studio camera manufactured by Philips Television Systems. Two representatives from Philips addressed the 60 members and guests in attendance. Following some opening remarks by William H. Sturcke, Jr., regional manager, a combined tutorial/demonstration was offered by Alan J. Keil, broadcast products manager.

The highlight of Keil's presentation was the operational alignment of the LDK-6. The camera uses less than 100 fc, and its image tubes are quickly and easily removed, installed, and energized. Keil described some of the design features of the product, including the warm air circulation system and the four microprocessors. The printed circuit cards, in both the camera and CCU, and a new worldwide board replacement program being offered by the



William H. Sturke, Jr., speaks to some 60 persons in attendance at the October 9 meeting of the New England Section.



Wayne Weiss demonstrates a component editing control system at the November 14 meeting of the New England Section.

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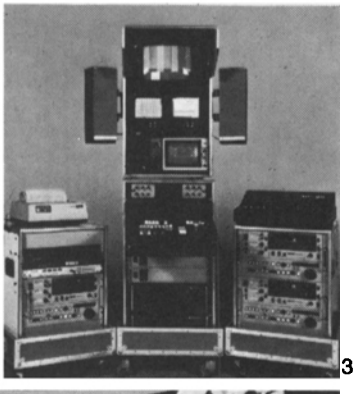

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company, were also discussed. An important point brought out by Keil was Philips' decision to install a pattern-generating diascope device inside the camera housing, as part of the camera head, rather than to rely on combination lens/external diascope systems. — Paul R. Beck (Secretary/Treasurer), Emerson College, 71 Cross St., Foxboro, MA 02035.

New England, November 14, 1985 — This meeting, hosted by Lake Systems Corp., attracted approximately 20 members and their guests. It took place at Jason's, in downtown Boston. Gordon Bates, senior systems engineer at Lake Systems, opened an extensive program with a brief but thorough discussion on the history of component editing technology, which served as the theme of the meeting. Bates also gave an update on evolving component technologies, after which he turned the meeting over to a panel of guest speakers.

C. Robert Paulson, AVP Communications, described a newly developed 2-channel component format that can be used with existing U-Matic systems employing a quasi-component *Y* channel and a chroma 688-kHz channel. David Berenson, Chedd-Anglier Production Co., then talked about his company's recent decision to invest in a component Betacam-to-1-in. Type-C post-production facility. The facility is equipped with the Grass Valley CV-1000 component video production switcher, which was on display at the meeting.

Following Berenson's presentation, Steve Blake, Lake Systems, discussed the success attained by combining the new component video editing schemes with enhanced multi-track post-production systems. Wayne Weiss, Optical Illusions Film & Video Production Co., described some of the similarities between the component editing systems and the traditional composite systems. During the presentation, Weiss operated a 3-machine component editing system. — Paul R. Beck (Secretary/Treasurer), Emerson College, 71 Cross St., Foxboro, MA 20235.

Ohio, December 11, 1985 Approximately 62 persons attended this meeting, which took place at WOIO-TV, Cleveland, Ohio. Ray Bulldock, Sony Broadcast Products, was on hand to discuss and demonstrate Betacart, the company's new ½-in. videocassette machine. Using slides, Bulldock described several of the unique design features of the system, including a bar-code reader and four independent videocassette machines (which are fed from a single track). Betacart can also interface with a station's traffic computer system to generate a playlist log. Bulldock demonstrated the equipment and discussed Betacart's maintenance and reliability. A tour of WOIO-TV, which has converted to Betacart, followed the presentation. — John Barak (Secretary/Treasurer), Industrial Video, 915 N. Terra Ln., Amherst, OH 44001.

Rocky Mountain, December 19, 1985 — Bill Porter, University of Colorado at Denver, gave an informative talk on stereo microphone placement techniques at this meeting, held in one of the university's studios. He presented a paper on the mechanics of the physiology of hearing, then discussed several techniques for microphone placement in stereo applications. Included in Porter's presentation was a tape playback of various microphone placements. — Kent Gratteau, Jr., KWGN-TV, 4714 S. Fraser St., Aurora, CO 80015.

San Francisco, December 17, 1985 — Three guest speakers treated 97 members and guests to discussions on film and computer-video animation. The meeting took place at facilities of the San Francisco Production Group (SFPG), San Francisco.

Carl Rosendahl, president, Pacific Data Images, explained the process by which a computer-animated graphic progresses from the storyboard stage to vector drawings, then to rough animation, and finally to computer generation. Rosendahl's presentation included a look at Pacific Data Images' promotional reel, which featured various sophisticated network logos, sports IDs, and some of the company's regional projects.

Jennifer Grey, an animator and designer at San Francisco Production Group, discussed how her company uses its Image II computer graphics system in conjunction with the Ultimatte, Paintbox, and other post-production video tools. SFPG's reel, which offered a look at techniques and applications, was shown. The third speaker in the program was Drew Takahashi, one of the founders of Colossal Films. He spoke about cell animation, and explained the differences between film and video animation. Takahashi, Rosendahl, and Grey all agreed that while great technical advances have been made in computer-video animation, many styles, looks, and budgets are better served by film animation. They went on to tell the audience that their most interesting and exciting work is in combining the two forms. — John A. Carlson (Secretary/Treasurer), Monaco Labs, 234 Ninth St., San Francisco, CA 94103.

Toronto, December 10, 1985 — Scott Hamilton, The Partners Film Co. Ltd., and Ron Koyich, Ampex Canada Ltd., made presentations at the meeting, held at Hydro Place, Toronto, Canada. The turnout was 40.

Hamilton's paper, "Snorkel Type Motion Control System for the Film and Television Industry," described a 1¼-ton computer-controlled film camera system. The complex camera uses a periscope lens to generate realistic action sequences. The periscope device permits the camera lens to view objects from otherwise inaccessible locations. The system is driven by a PDP-11 computer and utilizes a television viewfinder to set up the travel sequences. When a sequence is finalized, the film camera provides a film copy of the event. Hamilton demonstrated the system, which took six years to develop.

Koyich then delivered a paper on a 3-D television system used to teach neurosurgery. The complex, highly successful system utilizes two cameras, mounted on a stereoscopic microscope. These cameras feed two Ampex ADO devices, which digitize and position the camera images so that they may be recorded in a single video channel on a 1-in. VTR. The output of the ADO devices is also fed into a Hitachi HD310 high-definition enhancer. The HD310 provides two signals to a Talaria large-screen projector with polarizers, resulting in the 3-D image. Use of the system makes it possible for a neurosurgeon to share his view of an operation with students sitting at a distance. — David L. George (Secretary/Treasurer), Imagineering Ltd., 20 Rondeau Dr., Willowdale, Ont., Canada M2H 1R4.

Ron Koyich (left) and Scott Hamilton, speakers at the December 10 meeting of the Toronto Section.