Section Meetings

Atlanta, March 10 — Approximately 130 people, from the SMPTE, as well as the Society of Photographic Scientists and Engineers, American Chemical Society, American Institute of Chemical Engineers, and American Optical Society, attended the meeting at the Atlanta Holiday Inn. The program, on the nature of color, featured speaker C. S. McCamy, vice-president of research, Macbeth Div., Kollmorgen Corp. McCamy, who developed the Macbeth color checker chart, a standard for testing color photography, outlined the science of color and the early history and development of color photography.

McCamy talked about the derivation of color names from flowers and minerals, pointing out that this system is inadequate to define the more than 10 million definable colors with different hue, value, and chroma elements. The Munsell ring of hue characteristics was explained, as well as the numerical assignments of value and chroma. McCamy also demonstrated how colors which appear to match in one light differ when the light source is changed. He also discussed the structure of the human eye, the physics involved as the eye's optic nerves receive photons of energy, and how the eye processes color and luminance. — Bebe F. McClain (Secretary/Treasurer), PAG America, Ltd., P.O. Box 5813, Asheville, NC 28803.

Baylor University, November 19, 1985 — Corey Carbonara, Sony Broadcast Products Co., discussed the technology of high-definition television before a group of 45 faculty members and students. In a clear and comprehensible fashion, Carbonara briefly outlined the historical development of HDTV at Sony, then offered the audience a glimpse into HDTV's future in the television industry. He encouraged all engineering students to keep abreast of new developments in technology through journals and the literature. — Samuel T. Norman (Chairman), Baylor University, 1825 S. Fifth St., No. 69, Waco, TX 76706.

Baylor University, March 20 — The meeting took place at WFAA-TV in Dallas, where a group of students and advisors toured the facility, talking casually with technicians and on-air personalities. The group later viewed the live broadcast of the 5 o'clock news both from inside the control room and on the studio floor. In all, the trip to WFAA-TV afforded the students an opportunity to see firsthand the extent of the technical interlacing that goes into a major broadcast operation. — Samuel T. Norman (Chairman), Baylor University, 1825 S. Fifth St., No. 69, Waco, TX 76706.

Florida/Caribbean, March 12 — This joint meeting of the section and the Orlando chapter of ITVA was held at WCPX-TV, the CBS affiliate in Orlando. Jerry Bauman, 3M Co., discussed various technical aspects of videotape manufacture. He detailed the causes of tape failure and contamination, measures to reduce physical damage of videotape, runability factors, and other concerns of interest to technicians and engineers. After a question-and-answer period, the 76 attendees toured WCPX. — Ralph S. Bevins (Secretary/Treasurer), FILMS, P.O. Box 1835, Longwood, FL 32750.

Hollywood, March 13 — Bill Raventos, Crown International Inc., demonstrated the TEF time domain analyzer, a microprocessor-controlled device that graphically plots the acoustical characteristics of a room in three domains — time, frequency, and amplitude. Raventos explained that the unit, given its capability to evaluate microphones, speakers, and amplifiers, makes it possible for a technician to pinpoint acoustical problem areas, rather than merely making educated guesses at their location. The meeting, which drew 80 members and guests, took place at the ABC Television Network studios in Hollywood. — Gus Dato (Secretary/Treasurer), ABC-TV, 4151 Prospect Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90027.

C. S. McCamy discusses various aspects of color and color photography at the March 10 Atlanta Section meeting.

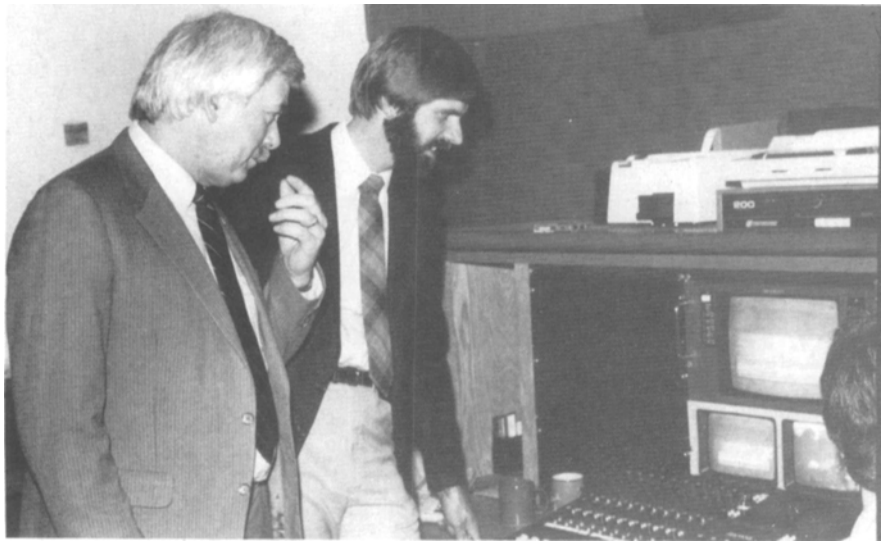
Houston, March 19 — At KHTV in Houston, Russ Thalacker, Tektronix, Inc., discussed the manner in which analog and digital video signals are accurately measured. His detailed report also included an analysis of the reasons for the existence of certain control signals, an explanation of the importance of time measurements, and an outline of the evolution of various component system signals. Thalacker also described the enhanced NTSC signals.

Following this presentation, John Schilberg, director of engineering at KHTV, led the audience of 30 on a tour of the completely remodeled and technically upgraded TV station, and discussed KHTV's conversion to the Betacam system for all videotape equipment. — Robert B. Musburger (Secretary/Treasurer), University of Houston, School of Commerce, Houston, TX 77004.

Nashville, March 27 — Claude Hill, Harrison Systems Inc., host for the meeting, discussed stereo audio for television. He talked about the basic elements of stereo audio, then demonstrated the new Series X automated console. Forty-two members and guests attended the meeting. — Duane Muir (Secretary/Treasurer), Nashville State Tech., 120 White Bridge Rd., Nashville, TN 37209.

Ohio, March 26 — The Vilmos Zsigmund videotape on production lighting techniques was presented at the meeting, held at Industrial Video Inc., Lorain, Ohio. On this tape, the first in a series to be made available from SMPTE Headquarters, Zsigmund demonstrates various techniques of lighting. The 1985 Clio Awards film, showing the award-winning commercials in last year's competition, and a tour of Industrial Video's new post-production facility, completed the meeting program. — John A. Barak (Secretary/Treasurer), Industrial Video Inc., 1601 N. Ridge Rd., Lorain, OH 44055.

Rochester, February 11 — Steve Powell, Motion Picture Development Group, Eastman Kodak Co., presented the Eastman color high-speed negative film 7292 at the meeting. Powell's interesting and informative presentation consisted of a paper, delivered initially at the 127th SMPTE Technical Conference, and two



Lee Frisius (right) talks about the features of the Grass Valley Model 100 switcher at the March 19 meeting of the San Francisco Section.

film demonstrations. Following the technical program, the 30 members and guests in attendance were entertained by a film of award-winning commercials from the 1985 Clio Awards competition. — Philip C. Vogel (Secretary/Treasurer), Eastman Kodak Co., 343 State St., Rochester, NY 14650.

Rocky Mountain, March 20 — Two subjects were presented at the meeting, held at Film/Video Equipment Service Co., Denver, and attended by 34 members and guests. Ron Cotty, F/VESCO, discussed the techniques used in testing zoom lenses. He explained the various tests used to check for focus uniformity across the lenses, tracking of focus through the zoom range, and color coating. He also recommended cleaning methods.

Jim Furrer, a freelance photographer, discussed and demonstrated a wide range of optical filters and their uses. A video camera outfitted with a matte box and follow-focus system was used to shoot a model. The model was then displayed on video monitors and waveform monitors to show the effects of the filters. — Kent Gratteau (Secretary/Treasurer), KWGN-TV, 4714 S. Fraser St., Aurora, CO 80015.

San Francisco, March 19 — Forty members and their guests were treated to three presentations, two of which were given solely by representatives of the Grass Valley Group. The third was a joint effort between Grass Valley and Pacific Video Resources, San Francisco, host for the meeting.

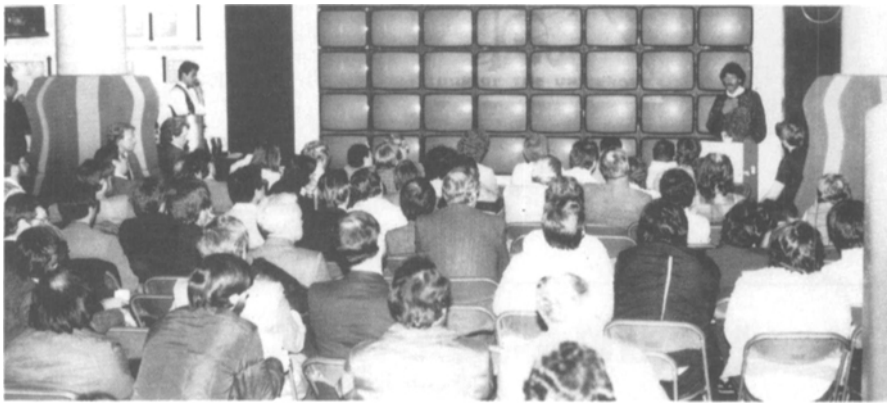
Grass Valley's Ed Martin began the meeting with a provocative and timely report on the growing use of fiber optics in industry. He discussed the ways in which his company uses fiber-optic technology to overcome electrical interference at its offices in northern California. Martin discussed various special properties and advantages of fiber optics, which are lightweight, waterproof, and totally free of microwave or other electrical interference. Engineers and technicians are now using the technology within the studio to connect cameras, terminals, switchers, and computers. A discussion led to speculation on the decreased costs and greater availability of fiber optics.

Lee Frisius, Grass Valley Group, then introduced the company's Model 100 switcher. He outlined Grass Valley's new methods of equipment design and manufacture and showed slides. Frisius highlighted the KEY-MEM system for remembering cued information. Steve Kotten and Jim Farney, Pacific Video Resources, joined Frisius and Martin to demonstrate the switcher and KEY-MEM in use in the ¾-in. and all-Betacam edit suites. — John A. Carlson (Secretary/Treasurer), Monaco Labs, 234 Ninth St., San Francisco, CA 94103.

Toronto, March 11 — More than 170 members and their guests were guided through the Tour of the Universe facilities at Toronto's CN Tower. The tour, arranged through Interactive Entertainment Inc., generated so much interest that several people had to be turned away.

Tour of the Universe is a futuristically designed spaceport. The facility attempts to represent an authentic linear projection of existing scientific knowledge 33 years into the future. The SMPTE group began by participating in an elaborate set of procedures including inoculation against space diseases, security checks, and ticket exchanges. Then a portion of the group boarded Tour40, a space shuttle adapted from a converted flight simulator. The simulator is capable of six axes of motion freedom, and can duplicate the movements of virtually any vehicle. Movements are computer programmed to

Members of the Toronto Section prepare for a simulated space flight at the March 11 meeting.



James Snelling of Tour of the Universe addresses the audience at the Toronto Section meeting.

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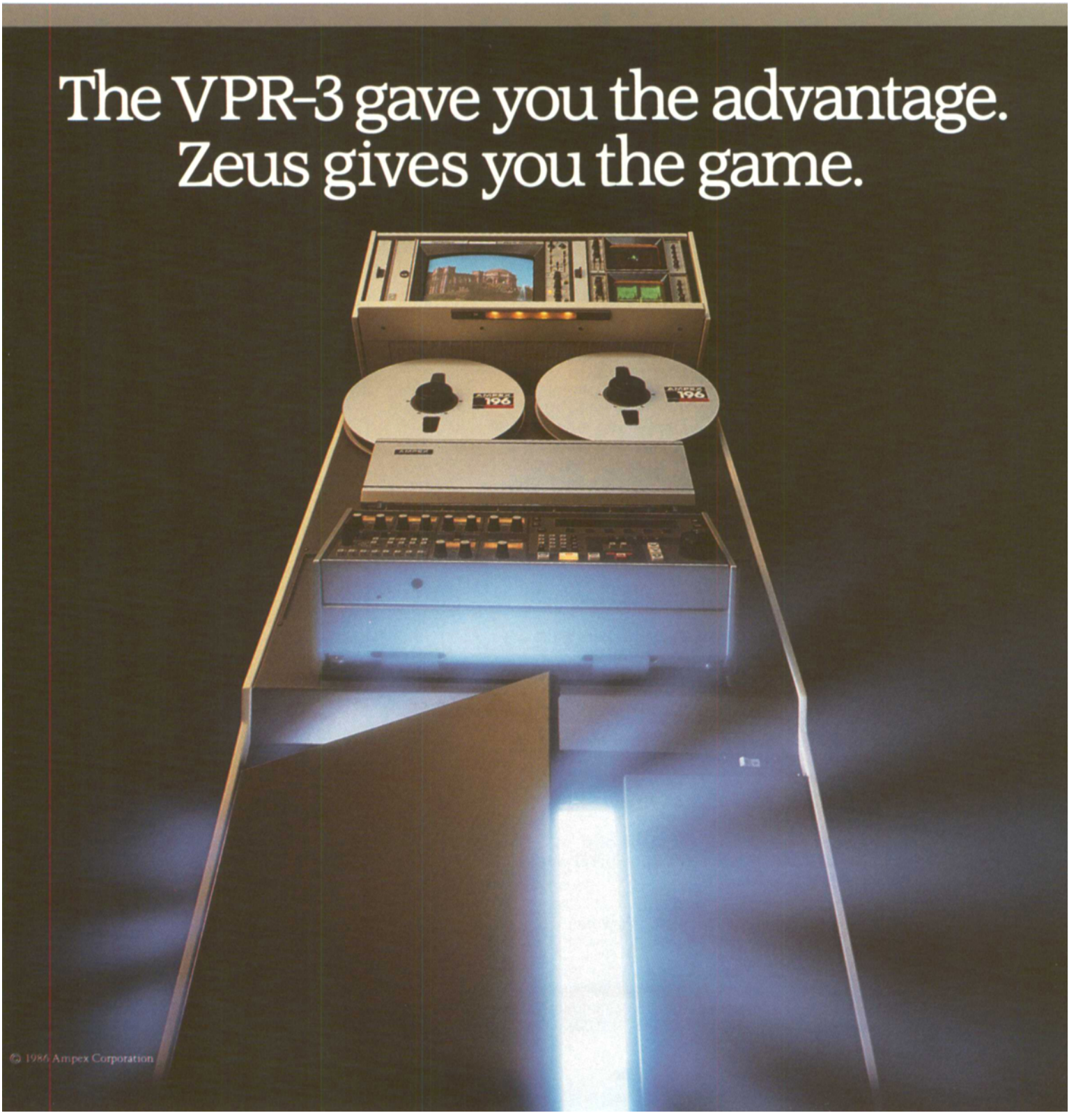

match visual cues in special effects films projected onto a screen. The participant has the impression that the visual images are outside the craft.

The simulator uses Showscan™, a film process designed to simulate a feeling of participation through the projection of a bright, sharp 70mm image at 60 frames/sec. The combination is said to deliver ten times the information of a standard 35mm feature system. A multi-channel digital sound system adds to this realistic effect.

After the ride, participants were seated in front of a Multivision display, which consists of 64 color monitors on a wall. The display is digitally controlled so that any monitor configuration, or combination of images, from a single image shared by the whole display to 64 individual ones, is possible. During this portion of the program, James Snelling, technical director, Tour of the Universe, explained the concept, construction, and operation of the facility. — David L. George (Secretary/Treasurer), Imagineering Ltd., 95 Barber Green Rd., Suite 112, Don Mills, Ont., Canada M3C 3E9.

Washington, D.C., March 25 — This joint meeting of the Section and the Washington Film Council was attended by 83 persons. The site was Atlantic Video in Alexandria, Va. Guest speaker Leonard Levin, an independent film producer and director, gave an interesting presentation which focused on the advantages of "shooting on film and finishing on videotape."

Leonard began by tracing his early experiences with both film and videotape. Although he had had considerably more exposure to the film medium during those early days, Levin preferred working with videotape because he was able to see immediately what was being shot. The process of editing 2-in. videotape, however, presented problems, so he found himself shooting more and more film.

Levin's crossover from film to tape occurred when the CMX editing systems, which afforded much faster editing, were introduced to the industry. He went on to discuss the editing capabilities of the Bosch and Rank Cintel film-to-tape machines. Today, he suggested, filmmakers should take the fullest advantage of shooting on film and finishing on tape. According to Levin, the transfer systems currently in use are so good that one can do opticals and color correction, and change the stops. There are cost savings as well. Leonard concluded that a producer has more latitude when he works beside his colorist/editor than when he is waiting for an answer print from the lab. Following the program, the crowd toured Atlantic Video's facilities, with emphasis on the Rank Cintel Mark III film-to-tape transfer capabilities. — David A. Cmeyla (Secretary/Treasurer), U.S. Information Agency, 601 D St., N.W., B/TVF/FSL, Washington, DC 20547.

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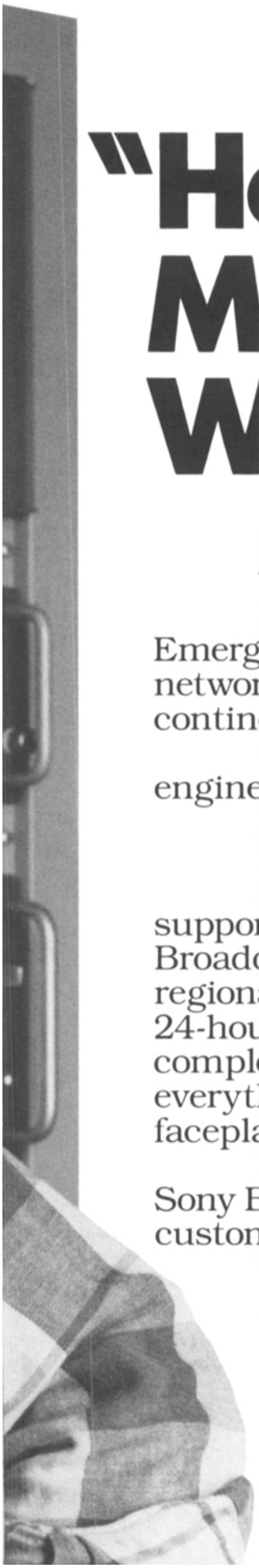

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