

Mini-Conference of the Montreal/Quebec, Ottawa, Rochester, and Toronto Sections

The 1986 Mini-Conference of the SMPTE Montreal/Quebec, Ottawa, Rochester, and Toronto Sections was held May 2-4, 1986, at the Holiday Inn in downtown Toronto. The theme "Imaging '86" drew a total of 265 persons to a series of technical papers sessions dealing with the most recent technological developments and advancements in the area of electronic imagery. The event was sponsored by the Toronto Section.

The SMPTE's training seminar for sections officers and engineering technology committee members was scheduled in Toronto on the day before the Mini-Conference. As a result, several of the Society's officers and governors remained in town to attend the special conference. At the May 2 evening reception, sponsored by Kodak Canada and held at Toronto City Hall, SMPTE President Harold J. Eady, Novo Communications, Inc., and other officers and governors mingled with the Mini-Conference organizing committee and early registrants to discuss events that had taken place at the training seminar and those scheduled for the next morning.

Other Social Activities

In addition to the Friday evening reception at Toronto City Hall, a formal dinner was held on Saturday evening, May 3. A coffee club, courtesy of PFA Labs of Toronto, was available to registrants throughout the two days. Spouses visiting the Mini-Conference were able to participate in a

varied and informative program. The highlight of the spouses program was a tour of the Cullen Country Barns, located in northern Toronto, featuring floral art and handicrafts exhibits.

Highlights of the Technical Sessions

In format, the 1986 Mini-Conference contained three half-day technical sessions, on Saturday morning, May 3, Saturday afternoon, and on Sunday morning, May 4. Following a Saturday morning opening address by Conference Chairman Jean Louis Major, Ampex Canada Inc., and a film presentation by the National Film Board of Canada (NFB), the first technical paper was delivered. The paper, by Charles Poynton, Poynton-Vector Corp., was entitled "HDTV — High-Bandwidth Video or Electronic Cinematography?" This was followed by "Measurement Techniques in Component Systems," by Bill Dean, Tektronix, Inc. Then Peter Laidlaw, Imagineering Ltd., presented "End-to-End Signal Impairment Study," a treatment of testing results relative to image impairments in signal transmission.

A digital audio demonstration, under the auspices of Bob McKinstry, TV Ontario; Bob Richards, McClell Place Studios; and Bob Snelgrove, Gear Acoustics, followed. The Saturday morning session concluded with a video presentation by PFA Labs. At the luncheon, guest speaker Ralph Mellanby, executive producer of the

CTV Olympic Group, gave an interesting overview of the technical facilities CTV will provide in Calgary, Alberta, to broadcast the 1988 Winter Olympic Games.

"An Overview of Professional Small TV Recording Formats," by Keith Fields, Canadian Broadcasting Corp. (CBC), opened the Saturday afternoon session. Then Andre Deltell, NFB, described the installation of the EditDroid at the NFB in a paper entitled "Human Factors in the EditDroid System." Strath Goodship, Canadian Broadcasting Corp., spoke on "Motion Tracking and 3D Synthetic Decor for TV Production," which was followed by a presentation and demonstration, by Michael Arbutnot of Ampex Corp., on the Ampex Zeus™ signal processor.

In "Videotape Recording — A Question of Format," the final paper of the afternoon, author Pat Wittingham, Sony of Canada, reviewed the various videotape recording formats, past and present. The afternoon session concluded with a video presentation by VTR Productions Ltd., Toronto, Canada.

Five papers were delivered at the Sunday morning session, the first of which was "Digital Sound for Theatres," by Ron Uhlig, Eastman Kodak Co. Following Uhlig's paper were, in the order given: "The New Toronto and Edmonton TV Mobile Units," by Daniel Despa, CBC; "The Birth of an Image," by Fred Lemmin, PFA Labs; "Kaleidoscope," by Peter Simms, The Grass Valley Group, Inc.; and "State-of-the-Art Technology in TV Receivers," by Jack Hall, Sony of Canada.

Following the papers sessions, participants were invited to visit one of CBS's mobile units, available for viewing outside the hotel. Conference Chairman Major then presented brief closing remarks.

All in all, the 1986 Mini-Conference of the Montreal/Quebec, Ottawa, Rochester and Toronto Sections was a most successful two days of dialogue and technical information exchange. Next year's Mini-Conference, to be hosted by the SMPTE Rochester Section, will be held April 24-26, 1987.

Organizing Committee

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