

Section Meetings

Florida/Caribbean, August 16, 1988 — Bill Carpenter, Recording Systems Div., Ampex Corp., spoke about the D-2 format and its applications in the ACR-225 automated short segment recorder/player and the VPR-300 digital VTR. Carpenter addressed 38 people at the WCPX-TV studio in Orlando. The slide presentation was broken into four parts, each followed by a question-and-answer period.

The session began with a comprehensive history of the D-2 format. Carpenter related the original design goals for a high-performance digital format, with all the features users had come to rely upon in the 1-in. C format, with acceptable quality in the 20th generation. This was accomplished with a more powerful error-correction system than that employed in the D-1 format. A segment on design and development of the hardware followed. Carpenter demonstrated how, by employing CAD/CAM design techniques, the tape transport for the ACR-225 became the transport for the VPR-300 with minimal

changes and maximum commonality of components.

The third section of the presentation featured a discussion of the construction and operation of the ACR-225. In the fourth and last segment, Carpenter reviewed the features and operation of the Ampex VPR-300 digital videotape recorder. Its advanced diagnostics and human interface features were highlighted.

Bob Diehl, WCPX-TV, took the attendees on a tour of his facilities after the presentation. — Clyde D. Smith, (Secretary/Treasurer), Lockheed Space Operations Co.

Hollywood, September 8, 1988 — The Sigma Design Group and AMC Theaters jointly presented a program called "Compound Curve Projection Screens for Advanced Film Presentation — the Torus™ Screen" at the AMC Theater in Burbank. Sam Giordano, AMC, described the evolution of specifications leading to the present advanced, curved screen for

AMC. He outlined the requirements that AMC insisted upon for this screen, plus several ideas for future enhancements to improve the movie-going experience.

Next, Glenn Berggren, The Sigma Design Group, discussed the theory and architectural analysis behind various types and shapes of screens. Berggren ran some representative reels to demonstrate the new, curved screen. Audience interest and reaction was good, with many members of the audience moving around the theater to see from all angles.

The sound and acoustical aspects of the screen were then addressed by R. Evans Wetmore, The Sigma Design Group. He also described other engineering aspects leading to the present screen design. Gerald Nash, The Sigma Design Group, concluded the presentation with an overview of the screen development and considerations used in decisions to implement the screen at theater locations. — Michael V. Chewey III, (Secretary/Treasurer), Bremson Data Systems.

Books, Booklets, Brochures

Audio Engineering Handbook is a practical how-to guide to current audio equipment and system design written for anyone who designs, maintains, or operates audio products for either professional or consumer use. Topics covered in the 1040-page volume include the audio-signal spectrum, radio and television stereophonic broadcasting, the essentials of sound pickup, studio program production and post-production, and editing and related techniques for film recording and reproduction. One important section is devoted to industry standards and practices. More than 700 drawings, photographs, schematics, diagrams, tables, and charts illustrate the text. The handbook costs \$79.95 and is published by McGraw-Hill Book Co., 11 W. 19th St., New York, NY 10011.

Also new from McGraw-Hill is the **Electronic Communications Handbook**. This comprehensive book provides a basic technical overview of the most commonly used transmission media (radio, microwave, satellite, wire and cable, and fiber optics) and switching technologies (circuit, message, and packet). It also contains the latest reference standards to plan, design, and construct communications systems and equipment. Transmission media and switching methods are

compared on the basis of cost, performance, reliability, and security. The book costs \$59.50.

A third publication, the **Handbook of Electronics Calculations**, is in its second revision. This "cookbook" collection of today's most needed calculations covers hundreds of solutions to everyday problems encountered by engineers, technicians, scientists, instructors, and students working in electronics. The handbook is written in a straightforward fashion with a statement of each problem, a concise review of applicable theory, and a detailed solution. The 848-page book costs \$49.50.

The 1988-89 Equipment Directory of Audio-Visual, Computer, and Video Products, now in its 34th year, details more than 200 categories of equipment with almost 3000 products. Each product listing contains model number, weight, capacity, features, applications, available accessories, and price. For comparison manufacturers are listed alphabetically by product category. Hundreds of products are listed with suppliers' names in the Related Equipment and Accessories section. The directory is published by the ICIA, 3150 Spring St., Fairfax, VA 22031-2399. It costs \$30 for members, \$35 for non-members.

Three new technical books for film and video have been released by Alan Gordon Enterprises, 1430 Cahuenga Blvd., Hollywood, CA 90078. **The Art of Digital Audio**, by John Watkinson, defines the basic concepts and terminology of this new technique and contains information on CD, RDAT, DASH, and ProDigi formats. The 489-page hardcover book sells for \$29.95.

Television Camera Operation, by Ritch Kenney and Kevin Groome, covers the entire range of live and taped productions, from single to multiple camera, discussing all of the on-the-set and in-the-field trade-craft. The book in paperback form is \$19.95.

Film Maker's Dictionary, by Ralph Singleton, contains in 188 pages the most-used phrases and terms in the film and television industries. For example, it explains that "looping" is not a tour of Chicago's nightlife. Paperback, \$12.95.

Orientation to Cinema introduces all the subjects students will later have to master, provides career counseling, and offers enough technical and esthetic background for them to successfully complete their first production course. The 419-page, softcover book was originally designed as a text for a class called "Introduction to