

Section Meetings

Atlanta, November 9, 1987 — Twenty-seven SMPTE members and guests attended the Atlanta Section meeting held at Tektronix, Inc., Norcross, Ga. Jim Edwards of Tektronix made a presentation on waveform measurement techniques. The talk included an introduction of the Tektronix VM-700 automated measurement system. — Paul E. Hogan (Secretary/Treasurer), Tektronix, Inc., 1150 Lake Charles Dr., Roswell, GA 30075.

Detroit, November 18, 1987 — The Detroit Section meeting took place at Sandy Corp., Troy, Mich. Before an audience of 74, Denny Garn and Jay Schneider of Panasonic Industrial Co. presented the Super VHS video recording system. They discussed their company's proprietary technology behind the S-VHS logo, as well as Super VHS's excellent image quality. A hands-on demonstration of the different components of the system was given. A lively question-and-answer session concluded the meeting. — Bruce R. Keplin (Secretary/Treasurer), Eastman Kodak Co., 19792 Scenic Harbor Dr., Northville, MI 48167.

Detroit, December 8, 1987 — At WJBK-TV, Southfield, Mich., Dick Dienhart of NEC America, Inc., discussed two of his company's more recent product developments. He devoted the first part of the program to NEC's VSR 10 video recorder. Using slides, Dienhart described the

features of the product, including random access in the record and playback modes, variable speed recording and playback, and built-in digital mix/keyer interface to the DVE® effects system. A fully solid-state design, said Dienhart, makes the VSR 10 capable of multitasking and high-speed processing.

Dienhart also spoke on CCD technology, in particular the design parameters for the NEC SP-3A camera. A question-and-answer period and tour of WJBK concluded an entertaining and informative meeting for 40 SMPTE members and guests. — Bruce R. Keplin (Secretary/Treasurer), Eastman Kodak Co., 19792 Scenic Harbor Dr., Northville, MI 48167.

Florida/Caribbean, December 8, 1987 — The Florida/Caribbean Section meeting, held at the Buena Vista Palace Hotel, was attended by 30 SMPTE members and visitors at a Video Expo trade show. Tom Le Tourneau, an independent lighting director, offered an interesting program covering various aspects of lighting. Le Tourneau's premise was that the increasing sophistication of film and video technologies has caused compromises in lighting practices. The meeting attendees actively participated in the program, sharing personal experiences and problems about lighting and suggesting solutions. — Dave Perrin (Secretary/Treasurer), Fuji Photo Film U.S.A., Inc., 4888 Heatherstone Pl., Orlando, FL 32812.



Peter Symes speaking on "Multilevel Compositing in the Digital Domain" at the New York Section meeting on December 10, 1987.

Montreal/Quebec, November 26, 1987 — Seventy SMPTE members were given guided tours of Television Quatre Saisons (TQS), a French-speaking television network in Montreal, Que. TQS, which has been on the air for just over a year, has distinguished itself by becoming the first all-component broadcasting organization in North America. The primary reason for TQS's decision to go with the component Betacam format, according to guest speaker Denis Bélanger, the network's vice-president of engineering, is that Betacam offers speed and efficiency in program production. — Rene Villeneuve (Secretary/Treasurer), National Film Board of Canada, P.O. Box 6100, Station A, Montreal, Que. H3C 3H5, Canada.

Montreal/Quebec, December 10, 1987 — The Panasonic Super VHS video recording format was the topic at the Montreal/Quebec Section meeting, held at the National Film Board of Canada, Montreal, Que. Jerry Roos, JVC Canada, and Michel Poirier, of Tresco Communications, presented the program, the former explaining the features of Super VHS and Poirier demonstrating the system components. The 60 meeting attendees had the opportunity to inspect the VTRs and signal generators and carefully study various program materials and test patterns. — Rene Villeneuve (Secretary/Treasurer), National Film Board of Canada, P.O. Box 6100, Station A, Montreal, Que. H3C 3H5, Canada.

New England, December 2, 1987 — The New England Section meeting was held at Landy Associates, Waltham, Mass. It was attended by 95 persons and featured three presentations by representatives of Ampex Corp.

The first speaker in the technical program was Glen Rose, a marketing specialist for Ampex's switcher product line. He discussed and demonstrated the Vista, pointing out the switcher's key features and explaining how it meets the requirements of the video production industry. Phil Bernal, a senior applications engineer at Ampex, followed with a talk on the ADO Digi-Trail Target framestore, a new system from Ampex which is capable of executing unique and exciting video effects. The third speaker was William F. Carpenter, Ampex's manager of worldwide sales support. Carpenter spoke on the emerging video recording technologies, including the D-2 digital composite recorder and a new VTR that records audio, video, and time code using the cassette system designed for the D-1 component recorder. — Charles A. DiSabatino (Secretary/Treasurer), Boston Video Associates, 21 Tufts Ave., Everett, MA 02149.

New York, December 10, 1987 — The New York Section meeting was held at Home Box Office (HBO) in New York



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City. Peter Symes, of Grass Valley Group, gave an illustrated talk on "Multilevel Compositing in the Digital Domain." He pointed out the problems encountered when one switches between different video formats. The composite mode is fine, maintained Symes, as long as one does not switch to component from either the digital or analog domain.

According to Symes, digital recording equipment has much lower degradation than analog equipment, and it is possible to go through many generations and still retain acceptable quality. Most digital compositing systems rely on this multi-generation capability, but permit compositing of only one image layer at a time. Symes described an approach offering capabilities equalling or exceeding those of traditional analog suites. He stressed the need for a 10-bit standard to eliminate the image degradation still present during digital multipass techniques. Following the technical presentation, the 75 meeting attendees were given a tour of HBO's technical facilities. — Roger Salles (Program Chairman), Geocam Corp., P.O. Box 704, Orange, NJ 07050.

Ottawa, November 25, 1987 — The Ottawa Section meeting was held at CJOH-TV, Ottawa, Ont., with 30 persons in attendance. Guest speaker Harris Kirshenbaum, marketing manager for Panasonic (Matsushita Electric Co., Canada), made two presentations — the new Super VHS video recording format and the optical memory disc recorder.

Panasonic's Super VHS, said Kirshenbaum, was developed in part to complement the advances the company had made in audio technology and products. Panasonic felt that the format would fill a void between home video and high-end applications. Super VHS features 400 lines of picture resolution, a luminance carrier frequency range of 5.4 to 7 MHz, densely packed magnetic particle oxide tape, and separate chrominance and luminance signals. Following the discussion of the features and applications of Super VHS, Kirshenbaum gave a demonstration of the system components.

The second part of the evening program was devoted to the optical memory disc (OMD) recorder. The OMD recorder has found uses in various industries. The Toronto Real Estate Board, for instance, uses the system to record some 150,000 home and business listings, and the Ontario Cancer Research Institute uses OMD for time-lapse recording in the laboratory. — John A. Howard (Secretary/Treasurer), Broadcasting Service, House of Commons, P.O. Box 1118, E. Block, Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0A6, Canada.

Rochester, December 8, 1987 — The Rochester Section meeting was held at Eastman Kodak Co. Dan Desmet, product support manager for Barco Broadcast



Some of the 75 SMPTE members and guests at the December 10, 1987, meeting of the New York Section.

Products, gave a presentation titled "Digital Intelligence in Professional Broadcast Monitors." It included an equipment demonstration and tutorial on the stability of color reproduction and automatic alignment of color monitors. This meeting was attended by 27 SMPTE members and guests. — Bill Denne (Secretary/Treasurer), Tektronix, Inc., 327 Keyes Ave., Watertown, NY 13601.

Rocky Mountain, December 17, 1987 — Fifteen people attended the Rocky Mountain Section meeting at Eastman Kodak Co., Denver, Colo. Joan Aiello of Eastman Kodak gave a slide presentation titled, "Film — The Look We Love." She explained the present and future role of film and stated that, despite the advances in video, film has historically presented the highest quality image technically possible. — Andy Anderson (Secretary/Treasurer), KRMA-TV, 7505 W. Yale Ave., Denver, CO 80227.

Toronto, December 8, 1987 — The Toronto Section meeting took place at the Ontario Legislature and Government complex in Toronto. Eighty SMPTE members and guests were in attendance.

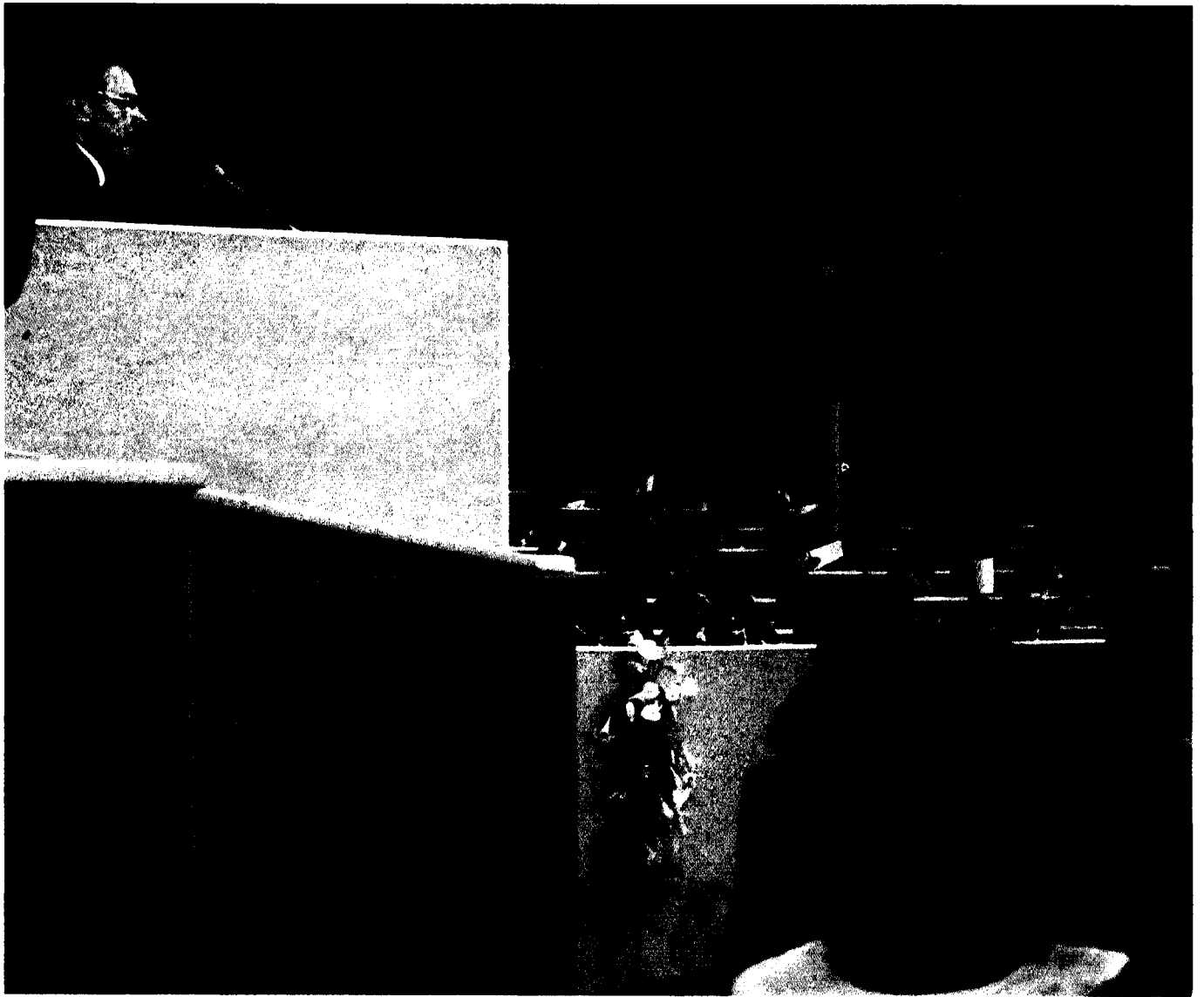
The subject of the meeting was the newly installed video and audio systems in the legislative chamber and other areas of the complex. Presentations were made by Bill Somerville, the manager of broadcast and recording service for the Ontario Legislature, and by Peter Laidlaw and Lou Montana of Imagineering Ltd., the engineering consulting firm for the project.

Somerville, who joined the project when it was in the concept stage, explained (with the aid of a videotape) the purpose and objective of the facility. Es-

entially, it provides live television coverage and recording of the proceedings of the legislative assembly and adjacent committee rooms. The audio system in the facility carries different language translations to headsets at each member's desk in the legislative chamber.

Anik-C satellites distribute the proceedings to cable systems, while TV Ontario transmitters provide coverage throughout the province. This amounts to 22 hours of "live-to-satellite" coverage of the House and 14 hours of "live-to-tape" programming from the committee rooms each week. Twenty hours are rebroadcast in the evenings, which adds up to a total of 56 hours of product a week. Audio-only coverage accounts for an additional 33 hours a week. According to Somerville, the activities can be carried out with a small staff; hence a very cost-effective production operation can be maintained.

Laidlaw and Montana spoke next, the former giving a summary of the planning that went into the installation. Then Montana presented a paper on various aspects of the system design. The paper described how Imagineering handled the many design considerations of the project, including placement of lights and mounting of cameras. The cameras are mounted on remote pan and tilt heads which are capable of 60° per second movement. Camera settings are pre-selected and presented to the control room director as a "preview," based on the microphone-activated controls. The director then takes the desired shot, resulting in a smooth transition from speaker to speaker. Following Montana's paper, the meeting attendees toured the legislative building. — Howard E. Wilkinson, CBC Broadcast Centre Project, 50 Angora St., Scarborough, Ont. M1G 1L7, Canada.



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