

Section Meetings

Detroit, June 9, 1988 — High-definition television (HDTV) was the topic discussed at Hiram Walker's reception center in Windsor, Ont. Some 47 members and their guests were on hand to hear presentations made from three distinct perspectives — that of the manufacturer, the broadcaster, and the producer.

Jeff Jeffress of Sony Corp. spoke of the HDTV hardware produced by his company. He detailed the evolution of equipment from the first generation analog recorder and camera to the equipment displayed at the past NAB convention.

Keith Field of Canadian Broadcasting Corp. discussed systems, standards, and matters related to his participation in HDTV standardization. The HDTV format parameters were covered and the subject of production standards was separated from the highly sensitive transmission issues. Field also spoke of proposed transmission schemes such as MUSE and ACTV, among others.

Discussing his production experience with HDTV was John Galt of Northernlight and Pictures Corp. Galt offered his views regarding the potential for HDTV in electronic cinematography. A 35mm print of his HDTV production "Chasing Rainbows" was screened, graphically illustrating the possibilities the medium can afford. — Bruce R. Keplin (Secretary/Treasurer), Eastman Kodak Co.

Houston, June 15, 1988 — Television station KHTV in Houston was the site of the Houston Section meeting where some 40 members and guests were in attendance. Bill Raventos, Crown Microphones provided an engaging talk on the use of microphones, punctuating his presentation with anecdotes from the audio world. Raventos covered the placement of miniature mikes for stereo pickup, acoustical phasing, and methods of avoiding proximity effect. A series of audio tapes was played to demonstrate the results of a variety of mike placements, as well as differences in types of microphones.

Following this discussion, John Shilberg of KHTV conducted tours of the station's new Betacam editing suites. — Robert Musburger (Secretary/Treasurer), University of Houston.

Nashville, June 8, 1988 — A combined meeting of the Nashville Sections of the SMPTE and ITVA was held on the campus of Tennessee State University in Nashville. Hosting the meeting was Don Page, associate professor of communications at the university and member of both organizations. Page introduced Joe Perry of Songbird Digital, who gave a brief talk on the history of the Synclavier Digital



Keith Field, Canadian Broadcasting Corp., spoke on HDTV issues at the Detroit Section meeting, June 9, 1988.

Audio System. It was explained that the system was originally developed by a student at Dartmouth College, and is now a product of New England Digital. John Slick, also of Songbird Digital, then conducted a hands-on demonstration and explained the various features of the system.

The demonstration unit had a vast amount of memory for storage of sampled audio signals. In addition to 28 Mbytes of RAM, it featured a 2-Gbyte optical disk drive, and eight 80-Mbyte hard disk drives with a streaming tape backup for each. It was noted that the system could operate at various sampling rates from 50 to 100 kHz. The system's 16-bit resolution and 96-dB SNR were said to account for its outstanding audio fidelity. In addition, the equipment was shown to be able to interface with a variety of devices using SMPTE time code, MIDI, pulses, or FSK. This fact, along with its modular construction, was noted to account for the system's flexibility and expandability. — Buddy Gailey (Secretary/Treasurer), Nissan Motor Manufacturing Corp.

Rochester, June 11, 1988, — Niagara Falls, Ont., was the location for the morning portion of the Rochester Section meeting. There, 25 members and guests visited the IMAX Theatre and viewed the spectacular 70mm presentation, "Niagara: Miracles, Myths, and Magic." The frame format for the IMAX system measures 50×70mm, and the film is projected using

a unique "rolling loop" projector. Screen size measures 61×82 ft.

In the afternoon, the group crossed the Niagara River to visit the Showscan Theatre in Niagara Falls, N.Y. The program there included a screening of "Niagara Wonders," projected at 60 frames/sec in a 70mm format about one-third the size of IMAX frames. Compared to "normal" theater presentations, the image is approximately four times larger and brighter. Following the screening, there was a tour of the projection facilities. — Bill Denne (Secretary/Treasurer), Tektronix, Inc.

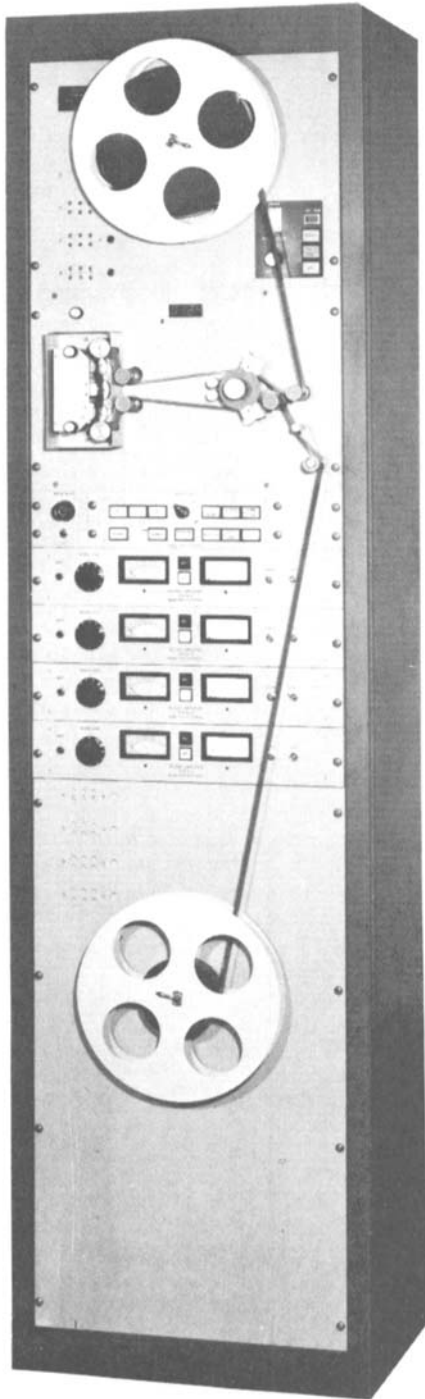
San Francisco, May 26, 1988 — Approximately 220 members and guests attended the San Francisco Section meeting at Dolby Labs' newly completed presentation theater.

Using clips from current feature films, Dolby's Ioan Allen demonstrated some of the capabilities of the new facility, such as artificial reverb and manipulation of room acoustics. Allen also demonstrated the interlock capabilities of magnetic tape and film. Following the technical demonstrations, the meeting was divided into two groups for a tour of the unique studio complex, which includes an audio control/recording studio and a projection room.

The building in which the theater is located is a renovated warehouse, originally built in 1910. Using walls 2-ft thick that sit on a "floating" concrete and neoprene base, the theater is acoustically isolated from lab and office areas. It was noted that the theater is in constant demand for film screenings, film sound track evaluation, demonstrations, and audio research. A wide range of music and film recording techniques is made possible by the adjustable acoustics. — Peter Hammar (Secretary/Treasurer), Hammar Communications.

San Francisco, June 4, 1988 — The site of the June San Francisco Section meeting was Lucasfilm's Skywalker Ranch in Marin County, where approximately 250 SMPTE members and guests were in attendance. Tom Kobagashi and Tom Scott, both of Lucasfilm's Sprocket Systems, hosted the meeting and led a tour of the recently completed Lucas Technical Building. The technical and production facilities that were shown included additional dialogue recording (ADR), Foley stage, THX theater, pre-mix studio, final mix studio, film editing, audio/video transfer, Editdroid editing room, and random access sound library.

The group also viewed screenings of recent Lucas films. It was pointed out that the four-month old facility has recently been used for post-production on the Ron Howard-George Lucas film, *Willow*. — Peter Hammar (Secretary/Treasurer), Hammar Communications.



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