Section Meetings

Chicago, October 11, 1988 — Mel Sater, consultant, and Marvin Camras, retired from the Illinois Institute of Technology, spoke about the evolution of magnetic tape at the October meeting. Through the use of gamma ferric oxide, Camras solved the serious problems associated with magnetite in 1946. He also made contributions in the fields of audio, computer, video, and telemetry tapes.

Topics discussed included the binders and adhesives that went into the original oxide tapes, their permanency, and the shedding process that went on from their inception. The presentation was historic, and dealt with early problems. The meeting, which was attended by 25 people, concluded with a question-and-answer session. — J. J. Kresnicka (Chairman), ABC/WLS-TV.

Chicago, November 1, 1988 — Richard Strauss, Sony Corp., spoke about D-1 and D-2 technology at the November section meeting, held at Post Effects Studio. Seventy-five people attended. Strauss spoke for more than an hour, explaining the differences between D-1 and D-2 and the existing C format. After a slide show and a demonstration of hardware, the group toured the Post Effects facility, which is now using D-2 technology. — J. J. Kresnicka (Chairman), ABC-WLS-TV.

Dallas/Ft. Worth, November 15, 1988 — At the November meeting, Lloyd Phraner, Panavision, and Dan Grimes, Nagra, spoke to 38 people about time code for film. Phraner presented a paper and slide show on the Panaflex Gold time code system, describing the system's electronics and how they were integrated into the camera. He demonstrated operational modes and configurations. Phraner also described the code imprinted on the edge of the film by the Panaflex camera.

Grimes discussed the history of his company's involvement in sound recording for film, from the earliest portable machines to the current time code recorders. He described the various methods used in "syncing up" sound and picture, and the benefits of the latest recorders and electronic slates.

The meeting, held at Victor Duncan, Inc., concluded with a question-and-answer session. — Brad Walker (Chairman), Video Post and Transfer.

Detroit, November 15, 1988 — A joint meeting of the Michigan Chapter of the International Teleproduction Society (ITS) and the Detroit Section was held at Film Craft Video; 58 people were present. Fred Remley opened the meeting with a status report on the SMPTE standards for the D-1 and D-2 formats.

Richard Crandall, Sony Broadcast Systems, presented a technical paper on the Sony DVR-10 D-2 composite DTTR, and compared the C and D-2 formats. Following the technical presentation, Crandall demonstrated the error-correction feature of the DVR-10 DTTR by unplugging one head during playback. The result was a virtually undetected change in the picture quality.

After a question-and-answer session, Tom Stefani, Film Craft Video, took the attendees on a tour of the new facility. — Leonard W. Eden (Secretary/Treasurer), John F. X. Browne & Assoc.

Hollywood, October 11, 1988 — More than 200 people attended the October meeting, which was held at Showscan Film Corp. Showscan is a film system that shoots 65mm negative film at 60 frames/sec and projects 70mm print film at 60 frames/sec. Edgar Johnson and Greg Thagard, Showscan, provided technical updates and demonstrated a Model CP 65mm camera. They also explained Showscan-to-HDTV conversion tests, lenses, and screen and theater designs. Jim Ketcham, Lions Gate Studios, discussed the six-track magnetic sound on film. The Showscan's short, *New Magic*, was screened. — Nelson Meacham (Chairman), Walt Disney Imagineering.

Hollywood, November 16, 1988 — Tom Kuhn, Eastman Kodak Co., and Ioan Allen, Dolby Laboratories, made an encore presentation of the papers they gave at the 130th Technical Conference and Equipment Exhibit. The meeting, held at Fox Television Stage 4, drew more than 100 people.

Kuhn presented the Kodak edge print format with Keykode numbers, which will be introduced soon. He outlined features that make the system suitable for either 3-perforation or 4-perforation use, that is, they are machine-readable and will not interfere with time code.

Allen discussed Dolby's bar-coding system to be utilized with optical projection release prints for various cues and theater automation, such as reel changing, curtains, and trailer sound fading. The codes can also be used as serial numbers to identify individual prints. Question-and-answer sessions followed both presentations. — Milton R. Shefter (Acting Secretary/Treasurer), Paramount Pictures.

Houston, November 16, 1988 — As audio becomes more important, the acoustical design and construction of studios and control rooms becomes more critical. At the November meeting, John Moran, Digital Services Recording Studios, explained and demonstrated these factors in his facility. Construction materials, size,

Gary Moon, Digital Services, Inc., demonstrates a computerized audio board at the Houston Section's November meeting.

John Moran, Digital Services, Inc., discusses the acoustics of audio studios and control rooms at the Houston meeting.

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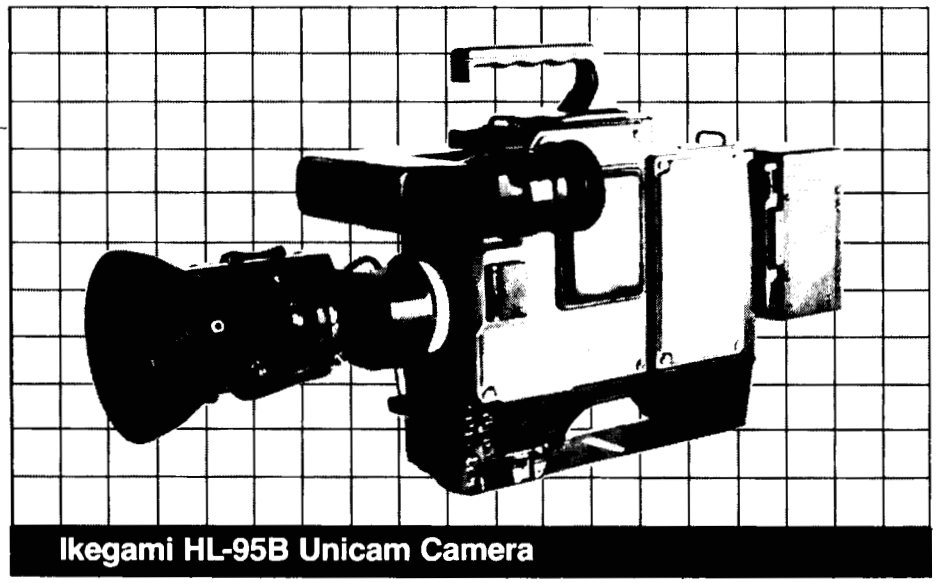

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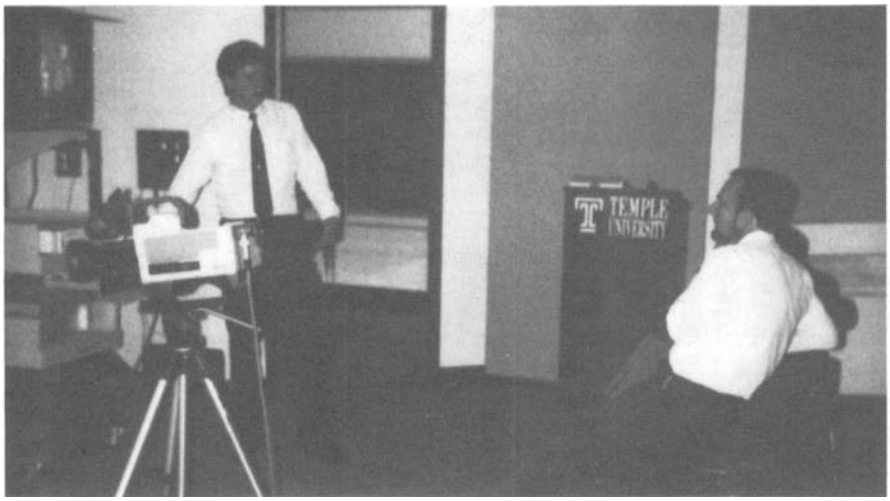

Philadelphia Chairman Jim Izydorczyk (left) and speaker John Rossi setting up for the meeting on advanced encoding/decoding techniques.

shape, and angles of walls and ceilings are all factors to be considered in a recording studio. New techniques, such as sound-independent measurements, that compare the sound leaving the control board and the sound present in the room, make the fine tuning of control rooms more precise.

After the acoustic presentation, Liz Harrah, Digital Services, Inc., demonstated how the Fairlight workstation was used in the production of a prize-winning commercial. DSI's Gary Moon showed an equivalent operation on his company's solid-state computerized board and Sony's digital 24-track recorder. Approximately 55 people attended the meeting at DSI. — Robert Musburger (Secretary/Treasurer), University of Houston.

Nashville, November 15, 1988 — The Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville, Ala., was the site for the Nashville Section's November meeting, which was attended by 43 people. Walt Lindblom, Boeing Corp., gave a demonstration of time-compressed video for two-way satellite teleconferencing. By using T-1 carriers and time compression instead of conventional full-bandwidth transmission, NASA can provide two-way teleconferencing at an approximate cost of $15,000 per conference channel per month. The conventional approach, using two full-transponder video channels, would cost $160,000 per month.

After the demonstration, the group toured the communications control center, where they saw a full-scale model of the space station that will be placed in orbit in 1994. Jyles Machen, Marshall Space Flight Center, described his company's role in the space program and gave an overview of the space station project. — Gene Parker (Secretary/Treasurer), WKRN-TV.

Philadelphia, November 15, 1988 — John Rossi, Intelvideo, was the guest speaker at the November section meeting. The meeting, held at the Radio, Television, and Film department of Temple University, was attended by 30 people. Rossi discussed advanced encoding and decoding techniques that are compatible with the NTSC system, including comb filtering, anti-alias filtering, gamma correction, and detail enhancement — all techniques used to overcome the inherent deficiencies of the NTSC system. He had hardware available to illustrate the dramatic improvement that could be realized with these technologies. — Jim Izydorczyk (Chairman), Sigma Electronics, Inc.

Rochester, October 25, 1988 — Principles of optical fiber was the subject of the October meeting. The guest speaker, E. Matti Hopiavouri, Corning, has been involved in fiber-optic telecommunications and image transmission for four years. He showed a videotape called *At the Speed of Light*. Approximately 20 people attended the meeting held at Eastman Kodak Co. — Paul Kato (Secretary/Treasurer), Eastman Kodak Co.

Rocky Mountain, November 17, 1988 — Gary Atkins, National Technological University, described the NTU to 25 people at the November section meeting. The NTU is an accredited university made up of 33 engineering schools that offer graduate courses via satellite. Headquartered at Colorado State University, NTU is the first Ku-band satellite network to use split transponder technology. They currently use two transponders in the 12 to 14-GHz band. Both operate 24 hours a day in a split transponder mode, providing a capacity of four channels to the system. Atkins described the initial difficulties in making the system work. He felt the economics dictated this mode of operation and that the end product fully justified the necessary trade-offs.

Tom McCall, NTU, stated that the organization had grown from a common need of technical firms to secure advanced technical degrees for their employees. Following the presentation, Randy Reed, WickerWorks, took the group on a tour of his recently relocated facility. — Andy Anderson (Chairman), KRMA-TV.

San Francisco, November 22, 1988 — Seventy-five members and guests attended the meeting, held at KTVU-TV. The topic was televising the 1988 Summer Olympic Games from Seoul, Korea. Charles Jablonski, NBC, and Joseph Roizen, Telegen, were the speakers. Jablonski detailed how his network used the latest technological innovations to provide viewers with a unique look at the games. This technology included mechanically shuttered cameras for improved slow motion and stereo audio. NBC broadcast for 180 hours with a staff of 1100.

Section Chairman Fred Lemmin (left), Edie Ballantyne, and Gordon Ballantyne at the November meeting of the Toronto Section.

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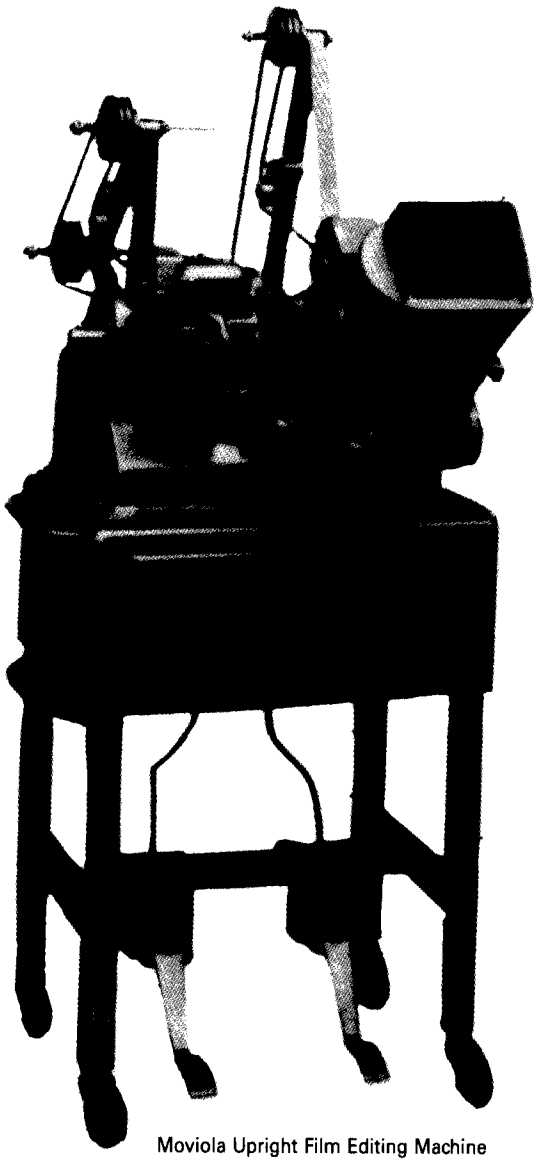

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Joe Roizen and Donna Foster-Roizen, Telegen, covered the Olympics for the television trade press. Roizen gave a lively presentation of his coverage, using photographs by Foster-Roizen. He described activities of the Korean host broadcaster, KBS, and Japanese NHK high-definition feedback to Japan. Video clips and slides provided imagery of the massive television effort at the Olympics. — Vernon L. Kipping (Secretary/Treasurer), consultant.

Toronto, November 8, 1988 — Fred Lemmin opened the November meeting by reading a tribute to Gordon Ballantyne, before presenting him with a plaque for Outstanding Service to the Society. The Citation had actually been awarded at the 130th Technical Conference and Equipment Exhibit in New York, which Ballantyne could not attend. Lemmin also praised Mrs. Ballantyne for 19 years of faithful service to the Toronto Section. Dick Smith, Eastman Kodak Co., and Michael Walsh, TV Ontario, were also given plaques in appreciation of their service to the Society.

John Norris, Eastman Kodak Co., delivered a paper called, "Modern Film Edge Number Systems," which he had previously presented at the Technical Conference in New York. Norris explained how film manufacturers have exposed edge (key) numbers along the edge of camera and intermediate films for years. Although less attention is paid to these numbers than to the pictorial qualities of a negative film, they play a crucial role in an accurate and efficient film post-production system. He said that modern film and video production methods are now placing additional demands on these edge numbers that were not foreseen when the current practice was initiated. This paper clarified how modifications to edge numbers and the way they are used will permit motion-picture film to operate more efficiently in present and future post-production applications.

The second speaker of the evening, Michael Zakula, presented a paper called, "Formaldehyde Issues in Motion-Picture Processing." Originally, Zakula was to deliver a paper titled, "Considerations in the Use of Estar and Acetate Motion-Picture Films." He changed his program because of new government regulations requiring that all companies be in compliance with the legislation regarding the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHIMS). Under the terms of WHIMS, suppliers, producers, importers, distributors, and employers must identify, label, and provide material safety data sheets for potentially hazardous materials to their customers and employees. Zakula reviewed the benefits of using formaldehyde in film processing and pointed out its negative aspects. — Stephen Cook (Secretary/Treasurer), consultant.

Michael Durling in the video truck at Colonial Williamsburg, where the Washington, D.C., September meeting was held.

Washington, D.C., September 24, 1988 — Thirty-seven members and their families were guests at a program highlighting the audio and video production facilities of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. The all-day meeting was held in the new Hennage Auditorium, designed by Boyce Nemec.

Richard L. McCluney, Jr., Colonial Williamsburg Productions, told the attendees that Colonial Williamsburg's roots in film production date back to 1930 and a film called *City of Williamsburg*. This early footage is now being reedited and combined with other historical footage to make a new documentary about the restoration of Williamsburg. The Foundation's next involvement with filmmaking occurred when it joined forces with Eastman Kodak to produce the film *Eighteenth Century Life*. This was the first film ever produced to be used as a teaching aid in the classroom. It is also believed to be the first 16mm film produced for public distribution using Kodachrome film. It is still in distribution.

The two VistaVision Todd AO sound theaters at the visitor's center were the first theaters designed and built as VistaVision theaters. The unique theaters are still used today, but the VistaVision system is no longer used. There are five other theaters in Williamsburg, making the spot an attractive conference center. The morning program concluded with a walking tour of both the audio and video facilities.

The afternoon program "Film to Tape Transfer Technology," was presented by Donnie Moore and Arthur E. Florack, both of Eastman Kodak Co., and was intended for anyone involved in film origination for final transfer to videotape. The speakers explained what film can and cannot do and demonstrated that film and video can have very predictable responses under certain conditions. Several split-screen videotapes were presented comparing film and tape for details in dark areas, light areas, overall contrast, color saturation, and skin tones. Various film stocks and their effects on tape in the transfer process were also demonstrated. — David A. Cmeyla (Past Chairman), U.S. Information Agency.

Washington, D.C., October 27, 1988 — John Wesley Nash, Groupe Andre Perry Ltd., spoke on the technical design and construction of his company's new post-production center, at the Washington, D.C., section meeting. Nash explained that the facility contains separate suites for editing, electronic graphics, audio mixing, and film-to-tape transfer. The areas are electronically connected with a custom control system called the "Resource Management System."

Nash showed a videotape of recently completed commercials and special effects. Staff technicians demonstrated the capabilities of each area for the 63 attendees. — John Wesley Nash (Secretary/Treasurer), Groupe Andre Perry, Ltd.

Washington, D.C., November 17, 1988 — Digital audio tape products were discussed at the November meeting by Art Gonzales, Sony Corp. of America. Gonzales explained the DAT format, using view graphs and product samples. He also spoke about the history and future applications of this format. After a lengthy question-and-answer session, the engineering staff of WJZ-TV led the 24 attendees on a tour of their broadcast facilities. — John Wesley Nash (Secretary/Treasurer), Groupe Andre Perry, Ltd.