

Highlights

- 237 Engineering Report • S. N. Baron •** In 1988 the Society's engineering committees continued to provide leadership in a world challenged by technological changes. During the year our engineering committees completed work on 31 Standards documents, 18 Recommended Practices, and 1 Engineering Guideline. The SMPTE is recognized both nationally and internationally as the authoritative voice in motion-picture and television production standardization. This recognition was and is earned through the efforts of almost 600 volunteer members who participate in the Society's over 100 engineering committees. The Society acts as sponsor of the engineering committee effort in order to promote good engineering standards and practices, study developing technology to assess the need for further standardization, and provide a framework for the dissemination of information between its members.

The SMPTE is recognized both nationally and internationally as the authoritative voice in motion-picture and television production standardization. This recognition was and is earned through the efforts of almost 600 volunteer members who participate in the Society's over 100 engineering committees.

The Society acts as sponsor of the engineering committee effort in order to promote good engineering standards and practices, study developing technology to assess the need for future standardization, and provide a framework for the dissemination of information among its members.

- 241 Motion Pictures • E. J. Burns •** Nineteen eighty-eight was a year beset with unrest as far as the motion-picture community was concerned. The 150-day strike by the Writers Guild of America West and the WGA East, followed by a four-week Teamsters strike in Hollywood, curtailed starts of feature films and commercials and set back the start of the fall television season. Yet in spite of this unrest, the motion-picture industry realized some record and near record-breaking performances. The number of movie screens in the U.S. at the end of 1987 was close to 23,500, up more than 900 over the year before, and in 1988 they increased to 24,250, or +3%. It is important to note that this recent growth comes from building new theaters, not dividing old ones.



- 249 Television • F. J. Haney •** Nineteen eighty-eight may be recorded in history as the watershed year for digital technology in television broadcasting. Fully digital post-production facilities have been built and are in operation. The Nordic countries added digital audio to their terrestrial broadcasting, using the NICAM-728 system developed by the BBC. D-2 machines began replacing Type-C machines. The erasable videodisc, anxiously awaited by the post-production community, now has a capacity of 10 minutes. Zoom lenses now have built-in microprocessors for better optical performance. The ZDF (Germany) demonstrated a picture and sound transmission via the Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) in Stuttgart. Computerized news centers have been expanded to include control of audio/video equipment including tape machines.



- 301 Educational • J. W. Young •** The educational activities of the Society are carried out principally through its national conferences, miniconferences, section meetings, and special services provided by the sections. The 22nd Annual SMPTE Television Conference was held January 29-30, 1988, at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville, Tenn. During the two days more than 650 people, members and officers of the Society, and representatives of the television industry worldwide, attended the technical sessions, equipment exhibits, SMPTE-sponsored equipment demonstrations, and other events. The technical program was comprised of 30 papers grouped into four half-day topic sessions on video recording formats, signal distribution and processing, planning and maintenance systems, and post-production.

New Developments

In 1988, the Board of Governors approved a new student chapter at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, and a student chapter-technical at the Institute of Audio Research, 64 University Place, in Greenwich Village, New York, a school of multitrack recording technology established in 1969.

Realizing the ever-increasing responsibility of the Society towards education, the Educational Advisory Committee is studying new ways of

- 304 The 23rd Annual SMPTE Television Conference • February 3 and 4, 1989 • St. Francis Hotel, San Francisco. •** The 23rd Annual Television Conference of the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers was held February 3-4, 1989, at the St. Francis Hotel in San Francisco, Calif. The conference was attended by 658 people. Most of the attendees had positive reactions to the first SMPTE Television Conference without an equipment exhibit. The general consensus was that the absence of an equipment display allowed people to concentrate more on the technical papers. To make a comparison to conferences with equipment exhibits, 507 people attended the 22nd Annual SMPTE Television Conference in Nashville; and 640 people attended the 21st Television Conference in San Francisco.

