

# Section Meetings

**Australia, March 9, 1989** — Rupert Utteridge, Sony Australia, spoke about the D-2 PAL format at the March meeting of the Australia Section. He explained the format and its advantages. Utteridge unplugged two heads of the Sony DVR18P videotape recorder while it was in the playback mode to demonstrate error correction and concealment. The result was virtually undetected change in the picture quality. After a question-and-answer session, the 32 attendees were given a hands-on demonstration of the videotape recorders. — Dominic J. Case (Secretary/Treasurer), Colorfilm Pty. Ltd.

**Hollywood, April 12, 1989** — Approximately 400 people celebrated the 100th anniversary of 35mm film at the Hollywood Section's April meeting. Restored clips of *Oklahoma*, *Gone with the Wind*, and *Lawrence of Arabia* were shown along with contemporary work. The beautiful, spacious, and technically sophisticated Samuel Goldwyn Theater at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences set the mood for the program.

Section Manager Milt Shefter narrated much of the evening's presentation. From the opening comic silent film to the latest Academy Award winning, computer-animated short, which closed the evening, the program demonstrated consistently creative planning and execution.

A highlight of the evening was the premiere of *Pieces of Silver*, a film commissioned by Eastman Kodak Co. for this centennial. It includes powerfully moving and humorous images from early filmmaking to the present. Footage from the-

atrical, documentary, and newsreel films was intercut to form an exceptionally fast-paced, but cohesive, whole.

Len Coleman, Eastman Kodak Co., described the early Edison work of the late 1800s and Eastman's contribution to filmmaking. He discussed silent film's heyday in the 1920s and the introductions of sound, motorized cameras, and color in the 1930s. Coleman also explained the numerous breakthroughs in film formats, processes, and sound. Many of these developments were demonstrated with classic film clips.

Legendary cinematographer Harry Wolf described the early problems and pleasures of filmmaking, including his work on *Gone with the Wind*. His comments on contemporary filmmaking were both thought-provoking and amusing.

Animation critic Charles Solomon described the animated toys of the 18th and 19th centuries. He spoke about early film animation, especially work by Disney and Warner Studios, and used delightful examples to demonstrate the development of animation and technology.

Frank Reinking, Eastman Kodak Co., spoke about current trends of television produced on film, some of the implications of HDTV, and future production and post-production issues. He asked the audience to examine the future and to consider how motion-picture film will continue to prove itself a universal medium of highest quality. The program closed with the head-spinning, eye-popping, computer-animated short *Tin Toy*. — John Aalto (Membership Chairman), National Tele-Consultants.

**Houston, April 22, 1989** — Members and guests of the Houston Section traveled to Match Frame/Ashe-Bowie Productions in San Antonio, Tex., for the first annual out-of-town meeting. Past-President M. Carlos Kennedy, Ampex Corp., delivered his Shoenberg Lecture, which was originally presented at the Royal Television Society. His lecture traced the origins of standards organizations for telecommunications and described their relationships and their responsibilities in developing and setting standards. He spoke about the historical background, geopolitical and economic aspects of standardization, and the role commercial and national interests have played in the development of standards now in existence.

Preceding Kennedy's lecture, C. R. Caillouet, Caillouet Technical Services, described the development of HDTV and the position the new formats now take in the production world. Much of his presentation was based on his own experiences with HDTV productions over the past four years. Caillouet defined the many acronyms associated with HDTV, the development of 18 different formats, and the efforts being made to reach standardization.

The Houston Section's Board of Managers plans to hold one meeting each year in a city other than Houston to better serve those members who are unable to travel from their home cities to Houston. — Robert Musburger (Secretary/Treasurer), University of Houston.

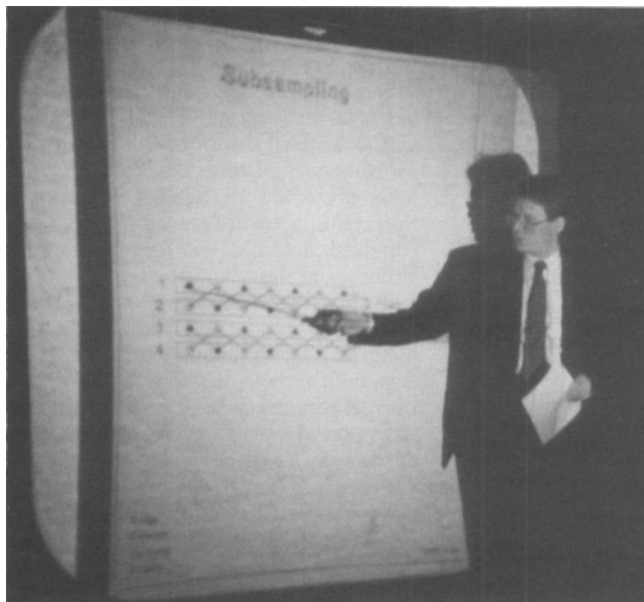
**Nashville, April 7, 1989** — Detlev Otto, Philips Consumer Electronics Co., presented a paper titled, "ATV in North America — an Overview" to 18 people at the April meeting of the Nashville Section. Otto reviewed the history of high-definition television and classified the various proposals for advanced television into single-channel, receiver-compatible, augmentation, and simulcast. Satellite delivery systems and audio enhancement for ATV were discussed, along with technical and political considerations and timetables to forecast the development and market acceptance of the medium.

Gus Spenser, Philips Consumer Electronics Co., demonstrated a production model of the company's IDTV (improved-definition television) receiver, which uses digital memory, filtering, and signal processing. The display is converted to a progressive vertical scan operating at two times NTSC horizontal, which improves resolution and eliminates interlace interference flicker. — Gene Parker (Secretary/Treasurer), WKRN-TV.

**Ottawa, January 10, 1989** — Fifty members and guests gathered at the CJOH-TV studios to view the third live satellite telecast of the Toronto Section. The line was via Anik D-1, which originated from the studios of Global TV, and was distributed to Eastern and Atlantic Canada and parts



From left to right: Chairman of the Houston Section Marty Kirkland, C. R. Caillouet, Past-President M. Carlos Kennedy, and Gary Groth at the Match Frame/Ashe-Bowie Studios in San Antonio for the first annual out-of-town meeting held by the Houston Section.



Dettlev Otto explains subsampling at the Nashville Section's April meeting.



Gus Spenser demonstrates a production model of the Phillips IDTV receiver.

of the U.S. The first SMPTE president from Canada, Harold Eady, Novo Communications, opened the meeting and was followed by current SMPTE President Maurice L. French, Canadian Broadcasting Corp. William F. Schreiber, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, revealed that there is more interest in better reception from existing technology than in the introduction of new technology, according to the viewing public. With the expectation that HDTV may be introduced to North America in 1990, Schreiber discussed several proposed methods of distribution. He felt that a two-stage introduction of ATV for terrestrial broadcasting would be the best route.

Strath Goodship, Leitch Video, delivered a paper called, "Trends in TV Standards — a Manufacturer's Perspective." Goodship explained that the number of standards and formats today pose many problems for manufacturers. He said the greatest concern is compatibility, which must be maintained for the systems to be cost-effective.

Christian Tremblay, Central Dynamics, Ltd., demonstrated the technology now available to meet the future demands of HDTV. Current teleproduction, using conventional NTSC signals, creates problems of cross color and luminance, he said. Tremblay then showed the audience the improved quality of video in a three-dimensional spectrum with digital filtering. Questions from the studio audience followed the presentations. — John A. Howard (Secretary/Treasurer), House of Commons.

**Ottawa, February 15, 1989** — Forty members and guests attended a presentation on the operation of a modern cable system at the Ottawa Section's February meeting. In honor of National Cable Month, Sky-

line Cablevision, Ltd., presented a progress report to create an awareness of the current sophistication achieved by cable companies. Peter Fee, Skyline Cablevision, gave a slide presentation of the company's facilities highlighting system design, construction, and customer service.

John Galbraith, Skyline, gave 1001 uses for 75-ohm coaxial cable. He included some historical references and mentioned that cable television was first broadcast in London shortly after World War II. The first North American cable company began operation in 1948, in Mahoney City, Penn. He described a typical layout with cascading trunk amplifiers and various components to carry signals to customers. Galbraith also spoke about the problems of signal reflection, ghosting, and cable attenuation. He concluded that coaxial cable, with its ability to provide a high number of channels without crowding broadcast airwaves, will be a preferred carrier for HDTV.

Tony Alblas, Skyline, presented a paper on advanced (high-definition) television on a cable system. He spoke about the ability of HDTV signals to coexist with NTSC signals in the current spectrum bandwidth of 6 MHz. This coexistence would allow viewers to receive HDTV video and sound on their HDTV receivers, while existing NTSC receivers would still pick up their signals without any impairments. However, he noted, HDTV would require more horizontal lines to give higher resolution in the vertical plane. Higher horizontal definition and a larger aspect ratio would require even more bandwidth.

In 1987, during an HDTV colloquium held in Ottawa, Skyline Cablevision was able to receive an HDTV transmission from satellite and transform it to an appropriate frequency for transmission via cable to the Congress Centre for demon-

stration purposes. The bandwidth for this was 27 MHz, or four to five regular television channels.

Alblas proposed that a different bandwidth to carry additional information will be needed unless a reduction scheme is incorporated. Skyline has been asked to demonstrate several different proponent systems again at the HDTV Colloquium to be held in Ottawa in 1990. — John A. Howard (Secretary/Treasurer), House of Commons.

**Ottawa, March 22, 1989** — Twenty-six people listened to a presentation on a post-production management system called the Transform-1 (T-1) at the Ottawa Section's March meeting. Craig Shorten and Dan Forgues, both of Adcom Electronics, explained that the T-1 system can provide production logging such as the co-relation of time code and film edge numbers. It can also interpret scenes, cuts, and takes into software form.

Shorten described how the feature film *From the Hip* made use of the T-1 system. Completed scenes were logged and an edit list was developed to assemble the complete show on video. The film-conform function of the T-1 allowed a video decision to be easily translated into a cut list for assembling the final negative. *From the Hip* was edited in only five weeks after shooting was completed.

Transform-1 contains a stock footage library and can provide electronic storyboarding, which was demonstrated at the meeting.

Michael Martin, Adcom Electronics, talked about the company's Automated Newsroom system. Martin said that automation can benefit stations and networks by reducing staff, saving money, providing consistent quality, and enhancing the look of presentations. He spoke about two

current uses of automation, in the NBC Nightly News studio in New York City and CHCH-TV in Hamilton, Ontario. The latter has been using semirobotic cameras in its news studio for 30 years. The camera dollies are stationary, with remote tilt and pan heads and power zoom lenses. Martin noted that this is now fairly common in Canadian stations, which use computer-assisted camera control, commercial cart machines, and audio-follow-video switchers.

The more robotized NBC news studio was shown in a video. The robot cameras move in all directions by traveling on tracks on a camera bed. He concluded that, to date, the greatest automation has been in post-production. With experimentation under way in the news room, he said, networks now have their eyes set on master control centers for full automation in the future. — John A. Howard (Secretary/Treasurer), House of Commons.

**Philadelphia, February 7, 1989** — Two representatives of Eastman Kodak Co. spoke about new presentation technologies at the Philadelphia Section's February meeting. Thirty people listened to Ste-

phen W. Payne and Jeffrey A. Schuchert explain the relatively new Eastman Kodak LC500 video projector, an LCD-based large screen projector. Payne and Schuchert also discussed an LCD overhead projector which interfaced to a computer to make a very flexible presentation system. The 1988 CLIO award winners were shown after the technical presentation. — James Izydorczyk (Chairman), Sigma Electronics, Inc.

**Philadelphia, March 7, 1989** — Thirty people attended the Philadelphia Section's March meeting at which the Ampex AVA-3 paint system was demonstrated. Jerry Coppa, Ampex Corp., explained many of the system's capabilities, such as antialiasing, shading, shadowing, blending, and airbrushing. The paint system was integrated with Lerro Electrical Corp.'s post-production system, which includes the Ampex ADO 1000 with rotation perspective and Digi-Matte, to show its capabilities to their best advantage. The effects were impressive, especially when seen on a large projection screen in the RGB mode. The Ampex Vista-10 switcher and the ACE-25 editor were

available for inspection. A question-and-answer session followed the presentation. — James Izydorczyk (Chairman), Sigma Electronics, Inc.

**San Francisco, April 19, 1989** — Past-President M. Carlos Kennedy delivered his Shoenberg Memorial Lecture at the San Francisco Section's April meeting. The lecture, "The Global Standards Dilemma — Agreement or Anarchy," was originally presented to the Royal Television Society. Kennedy has long been active in setting international television standards. Besides his work in America, his efforts have taken him to Japan, Australia, the People's Republic of China, the Soviet Union, and Europe. Kennedy spoke about what is really happening in the global advanced television standards process, where politics, money, and national pride often play a more important role than outstanding engineering. Kennedy also discussed how world bodies have dealt with crucial television standards over the years. His talk was illustrated with videotape clips showing the scope of competing video technologies. — Vernon L. Kipping (Secretary/Treasurer), consultant.

## News

### Call for Papers for 24th Annual SMPTE Television Conference

A call for papers for the 24th Annual SMPTE Television Conference has been formally announced by SMPTE Editorial Vice-President Frank J. Haney, Capital Cities/ABC, Inc. The theme of the conference is "Merging Multiple Technologies." Clyde D. Smith, Lockheed Space Operations Co., is the Program Chairman.

Anyone interested in presenting a paper on television technology should submit an author form with name, address, the proposed title of the paper, and a 100-word abstract summarizing the paper's content to SMPTE, c/o Program Coordinator Marilyn Waldman, 595 W. Hartsdale Ave., White Plains, NY 10607. This information must be received by September 15, 1989. The author forms are available from the address above.

The 24th Annual Television Conference will be held January 26 and 27, 1990, at the Contemporary Hotel in Orlando, Fla. Details of the conference will be published in subsequent issues of the *Journal*.

**ITU-COM 89**, the First World Electronic Symposium and Exhibition, will be held in Geneva, Switzerland, from October 3 to October 8, 1989. Approximately 200 speakers from 35 countries will present

papers on the theme "Toward Global Information: The Electronic Media Explosion." A special section of the exhibition has been reserved for presentations by 136 developing countries. Each country will display a profile of its radio and television broadcasting networks, with statistics and illustrations to provide a picture of the worldwide development of radio and television. The First World Book and Audio-visual Fair on Telecommunications and Electronic Media will be held in conjunction with ITU-COM 89. The Fair is designed to be a forum for the widest possible range of published information concerning telecommunications, electronics, and electronic media.

For more information on the conference, contact the International Telecommunication Union, Place des Nations, CH-1211, Geneva 20, Switzerland.

**The SMPTE recently cosponsored three production classes** with California colleges. "Toward the Ultimate Sound System for Post-Production: An SMPTE Forum" was held May 6 through the joint efforts of the UCLA Extension and the Hollywood Section. The all-day program featured presentations on post-production sound techniques by Ioan Allen, Dolby Laboratories; Chris David, Solid State Logic; Brian Kelly, Lucasfilm Ltd.; J.A. Moorer, Sonic Solutions; Ed Zwaneveld,

National Film Board of Canada; David Haynes, Integrated Media Systems; and Lee Bartolomei, Digital Audio Research.

The SMPTE/University of Southern California 1989 Spring Seminar, "Film for Television," was held May 20 and May 21. The class was designed to update craftsmen and technicians on the latest techniques of shooting film for video. SMPTE Education Committee Chairman Gus Dato, ABC, delivered the Welcoming Address, and SMPTE/USC Program Chairman Don McCroskey made some opening remarks. There were six sessions on Sunday covering "Transfer Methods," "Proper Video Viewing Conditions," and the case history of a television series, including cinematography, editing, transfer, and color correction of the finished film for the videotape master.

A course called "Film and Video: Integration of New Technologies" was held in cooperation with California State University at Northridge on four evenings from June 1 to June 22, 1989. This program was designed for working professionals and students who wished to broaden their knowledge of the integration of film and video; to explore film production, electronic production, image manipulation, and the latest trends and technologies; and to meet with leading film and video experts. The course used a case-study approach.