

Section Meetings

Australia, May 23, 1989 — The Australia Section's May meeting was held at The Editing Machine. Twenty-six section members and guests fought heavy rain to attend the company's open house. Kerry Regan, The Editing Machine, explained that a systems approach was taken. For each project, the optimum post-production system is designed. Regan, who has a film background, stressed that frame-accurate editing is essential. The computers used at The Editing Machine base both film and tape edit lists on SMPTE time code, which is used right from the rushes stage to synchronize sound. He explained that the editing of picture and sound could be carried out by recording both in pre-time-coded U-matic cassettes. The off-line edit produces an edit decision list that can be used for tape conforming or to generate an edge-number list for negative matchers.

Regan introduced his colleagues, David Jaegar and Michael Thomas. Each of the three then took a group to an edit room where he explained the techniques of off-line editing. — Dominic J. Case (Secretary/Treasurer), Colorfilm Pty Ltd.

Houston, May 17, 1989 — Twenty-five members and guests listened to a presentation on fiber optics at the May meeting of the Houston Section. This technology has existed for more than 20 years, but it has only been in the past decade that it has emerged as a viable communication system. Richard Gillespie, MCI, described the development of the fibers and the systems designed to use this technology. He explained the differences between LED

and injection laser-diode (ILD) light sources, the advantages and disadvantages of analog and digital signals, and the many types of signals transmitted. Gillespie also discussed the problems and methods of laying and protecting the cable and the integration of fiber carriers with microwave and copper wire systems.

Following the technical presentation, Jared Kearney and Harry Leedham, both of MCI, led the group on a walking tour through the MCI Houston switching center. The computers that operate the switching center, the rack equipment, patch bays, and conversion equipment were demonstrated. — Robert Musburger (Secretary/Treasurer), University of Houston.

Nashville, May 16, 1989 — Mark Grasso, Schwem Technology, spoke about image stabilization in video production at the May meeting of the Nashville Section. Grasso showed videotaped examples of how the gyrozoom has been used to produce smooth video when shooting is done from a vibrating platform, such as a helicopter, moving vehicle, or boat. He discussed several approaches to achieve image stabilization, concluding with the method developed by the late Dr. Luis W. Alvarez, the inventor of the gyrozoom.

Grasso demonstrated to the 18 people present Schwem's GX-3, a camera and stabilizer combined in one small package, and gave them a chance to examine Schwem's Emmy Award winning FP-1 gyrozoom. A question-and-answer session followed. — Gene Parker (Secretary/Treasurer), WKRN-TV.



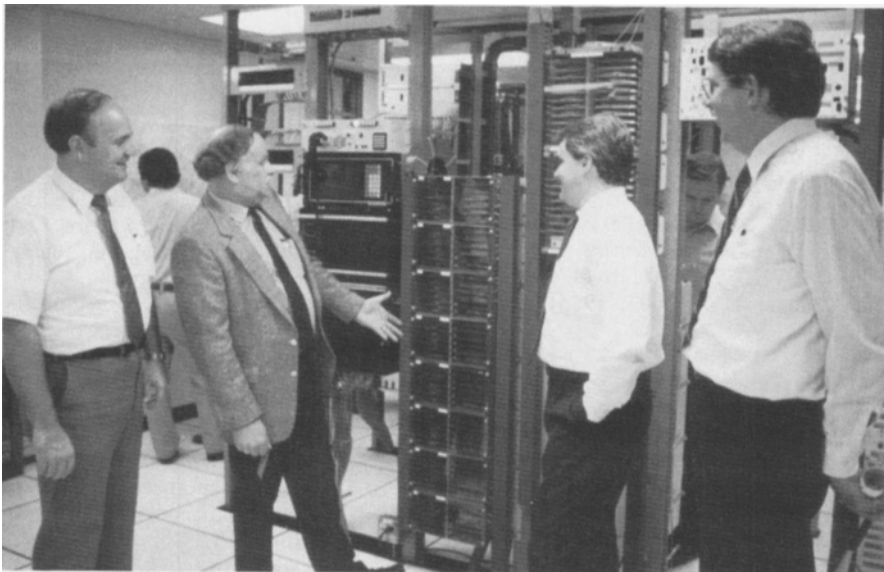
Jay Fine, NBC, at New York Section's April meeting.

New York, April 25, 1989 — Approximately 125 people attended the New York Section's April meeting at NBC's Rockefeller Center headquarters. The topic of the meeting was the network's automated studio/newsroom. Jay Fine, NBC News, outlined the formidable problems of coordinating the technical facilities with the needs of editorial and production users. He made special note of a central computer control system that simultaneously manages studio lighting and three remote camera positioners.

Lawrence Thaler, NBC News, described the system used by NBC to report election results. Central to the system is the Microvax host computer that supervises several elements, including a Quantel Cypher character generator. — J. H. Ballard (Manager), NBC.

New York, May 18, 1989 — A standing-room-only group of 125 members and guests attended the New York Section's May meeting at HBO Studios. Peter Dare, Sony Communications Products Co., spoke about Sony's all-digital edit suite. He covered the construction of the first such suite, which was introduced at the 1989 NAB show. He explained the benefits of digital processing for audio and video, and described the components used to fabricate the system. The suite is composed of a Sony DVR-10, DVC-80, DVR/DVPC-1000, APX-177 digital audio mixer, DFX 1200 format converter, prototype digital color corrector, BVX-100 digital recorder, Dubner character generator paint system, Tektronix digital waveform monitor, and other digital peripherals.

Dare displayed block diagrams of the edit suite and gave candid comments on the benefits and problems encountered in connecting a variety of digital devices in one system. Some of the issues he brought up were the processing limitations of digital video switchers and effects devices combined with an 8-bit D-2 recording format. Audio mixing delay and synchronization were discussed in detail. Following his presentation, there was a lively question-and-answer session, which touched on subjects from digital audio editing to



Left to right: Marty Kirkland, Houston Section Chairman, examines switching equipment with MCI representatives Harry Leedham, Jared Kearney, and Richard Gillespie at the May meeting.

digital video and processing. — Paul Berger (Manager), Sony Communications Products Co.

Pasadena City College, May 9, 1989 — Gary Meeker, a free-lance lighting director, addressed 19 students at Pasadena City College's May meeting. He spoke about getting started in video and film and urged the audience to get serious about internships. He described his experience of interning without pay for 16 hours a day at Glendale Studios while he was a student. This led to employment at the studio and to eventual promotion to lighting director. He explained the structure of the studio, from budgeting to crews and equipment, and stressed the importance of networking and maintaining a professional attitude at all times. Meeker spoke about his last several assignments and how he was booked ahead for future assignments. The audience was very interested in Meeker's message and remained to ask questions after the meeting was adjourned. — Gerald Finn (Faculty Advisor), Pasadena City College.

Toronto, April 11, 1989 — John Howells, Sony of Canada, Ltd., spoke about library management systems (LMS) at the Toronto Section's April meeting. The meeting was held at CHCH-TV studios, which recently installed Sony's BVC-1000 LMS. This system can hold more than 1000 videocassettes for replay and can be expanded to handle 4000 cassettes. Howells gave a brief history of LMS and explained the issues a station faces and how the LMS would improve efficiency, stressing such benefits as format selection, automation systems, traffic-systems interface, and systems concepts. After his formal presentation, Howells demonstrated the new Sony 2000 LMS.

Membership Chairman Howard Wilkinson, Canadian Broadcasting Center, reported that the Toronto Section has 451 members, with four new members since the last meeting. Governor Gordon Ballantyne, Applied Electronics, announced that the newest SMPTE Section has been formed in Italy and spoke about the Ottawa Mini-Conference.

Dennis Cookinham, Quantel, presented a paper called "Digital Television — Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow." The paper emphasized Quantel's Harry Suite, and how it relates to the future of digital television. The Harry Suite consists of the Harry digital recorder, the Encore 3D video manipulator, and the Paint Box. These all operate from a single data tablet and pen, with video output and operating menus displayed on one RGB monitor. By incorporating the functions of videotape recorders, vision mixer, digital effects devices, digital multitrack editor, and paint systems into an integrated unit, the Harry Suite replaces the conventional videotape edit suite. — Stephen B. Cook (Secretary/Treasurer), consultant.

News

A new Working Group on Advanced Television Production (T14.39) has been formed under the SMPTE Committee on Television Technology. The working group, chaired by Fred Remley, University of Michigan, will consider advanced television production systems based on 16:9 aspect ratio, 29.97-Hz frame rate, active line counts in the range of 900 to 1500 lines/frame, and 2:1 interlaced scanning. It will also consider progressive scanned, common image format and common data rate approaches to advanced television production systems.

The group will further consider advanced television emission proposals currently under study in the FCC Advisory Committee on Advanced TV Systems and in the Canadian Advanced Broadcast Systems Committee. It will also take into account the parameters in SMPTE 240M and of similar work undertaken by the BTA, EBU, CCIR, and other organizations and will give consideration to a proposed standard for an advanced television production system based on 16:9 aspect ratio, 29.97-Hz frame rate, 1050 lines, and 2:1 interlaced scanning.

It is expected that the group's first report will be presented to the Committee on Television Technology by January 31, 1990. Persons interested in actively participating in the work of this committee should contact the Engineering Department, SMPTE, 595 W. Hartsdale Ave., White Plains, NY 10607; (914) 761-1100.

A new Working Group on Film Storage and Keeping (L6.40) has been formed under the SMPTE Committee on Laboratory Services Technology. Chaired by Richard Bauer, Eastman Kodak Co., the working group will review and consolidate all existing storage data in order to make complete storage recommendations relative to preprint motion-picture films under long-term archival, medium-term, and short-term storage conditions.

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The 87th AES Convention has been rescheduled to October 18 through October 21 by the Audio Engineering Society. The convention will be held at the New York Hilton Hotel and New York Sheraton Center, New York City. The change was made to avoid the conflict with the 131st SMPTE Technical Conference and Equipment Exhibit. For more information, contact the Audio Engineering

Society, 60 E. 42nd St., Suite 2520, New York, NY 10165.

IBC90, the International Broadcasting Convention, will be held September 21 to September 25, 1990, in Brighton, England. An ambitious technical program is planned, with papers by contributors from around the world. The IBC exhibition is often the European launching platform for new products. The convention will take place in three adjacent areas: the Metropole Conference and Exhibition Centre, the Grand Hotel, and the Brighton Centre. An exhibit of broadcast vehicles, satellite ground stations, and other large displays will be set up on an esplanade outside the convention center. Conference highlights will include the presentation of the prestigious IBC Award, a full social program, and a spouses program.

IBC90 is sponsored by the Institution of Electrical Engineers, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, the International Association of Broadcasting Manufacturers, the Royal Television Society, and the SMPTE. For more information on the convention, contact: IBC Secretariat, Institution of Electrical Engineers, Savoy Place, London WC2R 0BL, England.

Zenith Electronics Corp. gave the first public demonstration of their Spectrum-Compatible system's high-definition television pictures, shown live on a giant-screen projection television. The Zenith SC-HDTV system is said to be the only one that delivers full HDTV programming on frequencies currently vacant under today's FCC channel allocation rules. It can make use of the unallocated channels because it eliminates interference.

Sony Corp. of America inaugurated its Advanced Video Technology Center in San Jose, Calif., this past May. The center will conduct research and develop high-definition television program production and post-production equipment. Technical efforts will be aimed at extending the state of the art in products, systems, and software for television programs using HDTV.

Harry M. Taxin has been named president of the Advanced Video Technology Center. Before joining Sony, Taxin was the president and chief executive officer of Cubicomp Corp. He held executive positions with several smaller companies and spent many years at Hughes Aircraft Co. He brings special expertise in software, systems, and digital technology to his new post. Taxin reports to Charles A. Steinberg, senior executive vice-president of Sony and president of the Sony nonconsumer products group.