

# Section Meetings

**Detroit, October 10, 1989** — Ninety-two people attended the October meeting of the Detroit Section at Ford Motor Co.'s crash test site. Each year, Ford crash tests 500 vehicles in an 800 ft long barrier building. John Sternbenz, Ford Motor Co., described the test procedures and test site specifications. The staff then crashed a 1992 prototype pickup truck into a steel-faced reinforced concrete block at 31 mph. Five cameras inside the truck and 40 outside rolled at 1000 frames/sec under 5000 fc for the crash that lasted 250 msec.

Sternbenz demonstrated the results of two previous crash tests and gave an explanation of the dummy calibration lab. The group examined the dummies and the calibration equipment and toured the crash control center. — Henry J. Root (Secretary/Treasurer), Hy James, Inc.

**Detroit, November 14, 1989** — A tutorial on the Ampex ACR-22 Library Management System (LMS) was presented by Bill Carpenter, Ampex, at the November meeting of the Detroit Section. Carpenter gave a brief history of videotape recording, from quad to helical to D-2, and spoke about the introduction of the Ampex digital videotape recorder at the 1979 SMPTE Television Conference in San Francisco. He made comparisons between D-1 and D-2 and discussed the 1986 introduction of the ACR-225.

Carpenter's tutorial covered the mechanical and electronic design and life cycle of the transport and the LMS itself. The presentation concluded with a discussion of the software. After a question-and-answer session, the audience was given a hands-on demonstration of the ACR-225 LMS and the VPR-300 D-2 recorder. The meeting, held at Mercy Center, was attended by 53 members and guests. — Henry J. Root (Secretary/Treasurer), Hy James Inc.

**Nashville, October 11, 1989** — A panel discussion on fiber optics was held at the Nashville Section's October meeting. Earl Gossage, Tektronix, led the discussion and spoke about video applications for fiber optics such as broadcast studio-transmitter-link placement. He explained the advances in fiber performance by comparing AT&T's 1976 equipment, which needed repeating every 6000 ft and carried 200 to 400 conversations, with today's equipment, which has 25 miles between repeaters and the capacity for more than 60,000 conversations.

Gossage spoke about Grass Valley's involvement with fiber optics in connection with the 1989 Winter Olympics from Lake Placid, N.Y. A demonstration was

made of a system, using 1600 ft of fiber cable. The video performance of input versus output was measured and displayed. An optical routing switcher was mentioned as a future product.

Thomas Bennett, Strategic Communications, Inc., discussed installation practices and related a story of verifying cable quality while the cables were still on the delivery truck. His cost for connectors was from \$3.50 to \$10.00.

Joe Gordon and Joel Senoff, of Anixter, spoke about connectors and splicing kits for fiber cable. A demonstration of connector installation was given, and samples of several sizes of fiber cable were distributed. A question-and-answer session followed the presentations. In response to the question "Why go to fiber instead of cable?" Gossage stated that between 2000 and 3000 ft is the break-even point in most applications. He said that fiber is cheaper than wire but that electronics add to the cost. The advantages of immunity from interference and from eavesdropping by unauthorized parties may justify fiber for shorter hauls.

The meeting was held at Nissan Motor Manufacturing Corp. and was attended by 11 people. — Gene Parker (Secretary/Treasurer), WKRN-TV.

**New York, September 27, 1989** — The future of film in an HDTV era and tone reproduction in film-to-tape transfers were the topics of discussion at the New York Section's September meeting. Michael A. Gittinger, Eastman Kodak Co.,

talked about the future of motion-picture film as it would integrate with proposed HDTV standards. Comments from the audience supported the suggestion that film continues to be the worldwide imaging standard.

The second paper presented by Michael E. Johnson, Eastman Kodak Co., covered tone reproduction of motion-picture films that have been transferred to videotape. Practical tone reproduction was described as the "ability of the recording and display medium to reproduce the relative brightness of the original scene."

The meeting was attended by 83 people and was held at Eastman Kodak Co. — Roger Salles (Section Chairman), Geocam Corp.

**Pacific Northwest, September 15, 1989** — Twenty-four members and guests of the Pacific Northwest Section visited Boeing's motion-picture and television center in Seattle for the September meeting. Joel Schroedel and Chris Pearsall, of Boeing, took the attendees on a tour of their facility. The Boeing motion-picture and television center has several on-line, off-line, three-dimensional graphics and digital audio suites that produce more than 1000 productions annually. Rick Anselmo and Fred Butler, from Teksil, Inc., in British Columbia, Canada, spoke about their company's computer-based teleprompters and how they are integrated into the television production system. — Karl Paulsen (Secretary/Treasurer), Digital Post & Graphics.

**Pacific Northwest, October 13, 1989** — Keith Cook and Caleb Boldgett, Northwest Video Works, spoke about their D-2 system at the October meeting of the Pacific Northwest Section. Northwest Video



Members of the Detroit Section at the Ford crash test center.



Speakers Michael Johnson (left) and Michael Gittinger (center) with Past Chairman Tim Spitzer (right) at the September meeting of the New York Section.

Works (NWVW) uses two D-2 videotape recorders interfaced into their on-line editing suite; this is the first D-2 post-production operation in the Portland area. The D-2's preread and multigeneration recording functions were demonstrated for the 34 people in attendance.

Following a tour of NWVW, Jeff Cavins and Bob Daines, Sony Broadcast, spoke about the current and future applications of D-2 and answered questions. — Karl Paulsen (Secretary/Treasurer), Digital Post & Graphics.

**Pacific Northwest, November 8, 1989** — The Pacific Northwest Section of the SMPTE and the Northwest chapter of the Society of Broadcast Engineers (SBE) held a joint meeting during the regional SBE convention at the Tacoma Dome convention center. Bruce Lilly, Sony Broadcast, explained the methods of translating between D-1 and D-2 formats using serial and parallel digital transmission methods. He then showed a slide presentation in which several pieces of Sony equipment were demonstrated. Actual format translations were shown for side-by-side comparisons. Following the presentation, the audience of 38 people was invited to use the equipment and evaluate it. The measurement equipment for analyzing the demonstrations was provided by Magni. — Karl Paulsen (Secretary/Treasurer), Digital Post & Graphics.

**Pasadena City College, November 14, 1989** — Student Chairman Ronnie Borden showed an engraved Spectra professional light meter, which will be presented to Pasadena City College from the SMPTE student chapter, and explained which classes would benefit from this instrument. He distributed a questionnaire

for opinions on how the remainder of funds in the SMPTE student chapter account should be used. The majority of the 25 students present thought the \$1500 should be left in the account toward the purchase of a more expensive piece of equipment, such as a talent prompting or digital effects unit. — Gerald Finn (Faculty Advisor), Pasadena City College.

**Rocky Mountain, November 16, 1989** — Television news helicopters are flying TV stations and provide many additional ways for the broadcaster to get pictures and information to the public. Peter Peelgrane, pilot for KUSA-TV, provided a humorous perspective on news coverage via helicopter for the 45 people at the Rocky Mountain Section's November meeting. Members of the KUSA design team, Myron Oliner, Stan Armstrong, Don Hayford, and Doug Warburton, made presentations on helicopter television equipment. Along with the typical avionics package, KUSA's helicopter, Sky 9, has an autotracking microwave system, audio/video switching and special intercom and two-way radio capabilities.

The design team explained that great care was taken in the design to enable the pilot to operate the video control functions easily without having his ability to fly the helicopter safely and to maintain his optimal shooting position affected. The autotracking microwave system is flexible enough to allow smooth transitions even as the helicopter circles quickly during filming. A look inside the new helicopter, with a hands-on demonstration, followed the presentation. The group was taken on a tour of AMR Combs, the manufacturer of the helicopter, and they were given a demonstration of state-of-the-art avionics and an explanation of the company's cus-

tom manufacturing capabilities. In addition to broadcast helicopters, AMR Combs manufactures corporate aircraft. — Jim O'Brien (Secretary/Treasurer), RIA Corp.

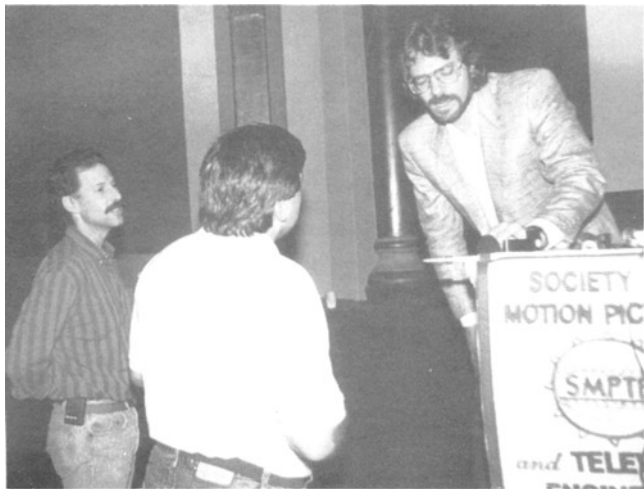
**San Francisco, November 18, 1989** — One hundred and thirty people gathered at the Alhambra Theater for the San Francisco Section's November meeting to hear about visual effects in the feature films *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*, *Who Framed Roger Rabbit?*, and *The Abyss*. George Joblov, Industrial Light & Magic, (Lucasfilm) gave a slide show detailing the evolution and development of special effects. Videotapes showing incremental stages of the development of special effects were shown. In particular, video was used to apply computer graphics to the fields of visual and special effects. Joblov noted that "computer graphics are viewed as a means of augmenting classic techniques in special effects, not replacing them."

The extensive experimentation to develop the scenes of the sea serpent for the film *The Abyss* was discussed. Slides and video illustrated the efforts to develop the motion, skin texture, skin movement, and finally the formation of a human face on the serpent's head. Ponty Hill, projectionist at the Alhambra, did an outstanding job of changing film gauges and formats. His flawless work added greatly to the success of the meeting.

The Alhambra Theater, considered one of the crown jewels of classic movie house design and construction, recently became the first movie house in the country to be returned to its original undivided form after years as a multiplex theater. Michael Spring, Alhambra Theater, explained the restoration project, which many called impossible. The result is a truly remarkable theater, a classic example of the opulence and beauty of motion-picture "palaces" of earlier days. — Vernon L. Kipping (Secretary/Treasurer), consultant.

**Toronto, September 21, 1989** — More than 400 people attended the Toronto Section's September meeting at the new SkyDome stadium. The large turnout necessitated modifying parts of the planned tour of technical areas; nonetheless, SkyDome personnel presented a comprehensive tour of the new domed stadium, with a detailed review of the huge Jumbotron display board and its control facilities.

After the attendees returned from a tour of the stadium, George Malcolm, Imagineering Ltd., gave a presentation on the technical operation of the Dome. He explained that up to 49 cameras can be connected at 33 locations through 155 miles of cable. The cables meet in an underground docking area that can accommodate six television production mobiles. This area is also equipped with a patch system that can route cabling to either the



George Joblov, Industrial Light & Magic, explains special effects used in recent adventure films to members of the San Francisco Section.



Michael Spring, manager of the Alhambra Theater, points out restoration features to members of the San Francisco Section.

mobiles or to the resident broadcast company, Dome Productions.

Malcolm described the construction of the world's largest display/scoreboard, which is 110x33 ft. This Sony Jumbotron uses more than 64,000 CRTs to provide a display equal to that seen on a typical home television receiver. Up to three different sections of the board can be addressed simultaneously through three separate digital effects generators. Picture

manipulation can be done in any of the three areas or in any combination of them to provide a triple, dual, or single screen event. Conventional television pictures are electronically cropped by the digital effects system to properly fit onto the board in any configuration, with or without borders between adjacent segments. During this demonstration, the SMPTE logo occupied the left side of the screen while the SkyDome logo was displayed on

the center and right panels. The 33x33 ft crest may have been the largest logo ever displayed by the Society, yet it occupied less than one-third of the display board. SkyDome Production Services Manager Syme Jago and Technical Producer Don McPhee provided a demonstration of the board's event support capability, which they are still discovering during live events. — Peter Laidlaw (Manager), Imaging Engineering Ltd.

## Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Voting Members of the SMPTE

White Plains, New York, December 15, 1989

A special meeting of the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers, Inc., was held at 2:00 p.m., local time, December 15, 1989, at 595 West Hartsdale Avenue, White Plains, New York.

The purpose of this meeting was to vote on a proposed amendment to the Society's Bylaws. This amendment has been processed by the Revisions Committee and unanimously approved by the Board of Governors at its July 12, 1989, meeting. The Executive Director having in her possession 1307 signed proxies, a quorum was declared to be present in person and by proxy.

The proposed amendment to the Bylaws was read and the meeting proceeded to vote. The approved amendment and the total votes follow.

### DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

#### *Bylaws, Article III, Board of Governors, Section 1. Number and Term of Office.*

Amended to read: The Board of Governors shall consist

of: (1) the elected officers; (2) the Past President of the Society; (3) individuals elected by the membership as hereinafter prescribed; (4) not more than five Directors (see Administrative Practices Sec. XIII, K, Sec. XIV, K, 1, and Sec. XVI, E) appointed, two each by the Editorial and Engineering Vice-Presidents and one by the Sections Vice-President and subject to approval of the Board of Governors, for a term of one year; (5) International Governors elected as hereinafter prescribed; (6) not more than three individuals elected by the Board of Governors for a term of one year when in the opinion of the Board such additional members will more adequately represent the interests and activities of the Society's membership.

For: 1297

Against: 10

There being no further business, the meeting was declared adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lynette Robinson, Executive Director