Section Meetings

Atlanta, March 12, 1990 — At a meeting designed as a preview to the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) Convention, Dick Walters, Sony; Earl Higgins, Abekas; Doug Sorenson, Colorgraphics; and Bill Powers Jr., Grass Valley Group, formed a panel and discussed the new products they would have on display at the NAB exhibit. The 35 attendees at the meeting, which was held at Crawford Post Production, participated in a lively question-and-answer period following the presentations. — David E. Priester (Secretary/Treasurer), Georgia Power Co.

Hollywood, May 24, 1990 — Over 100 members and guests attended a lecture given by Michael T. Fellner, Ikegami Electronics, on his company's CCD camera system. Fellner described the operating characteristics of CCD technology, manufacturing problems and solutions, and comparisons between CCD cameras and tube cameras. The evening was presented in cooperation with the Pasadena City College Student Chapter. Prior to the meeting, 50 people attended a dinner at Nicodell's, a well-known Hollywood restaurant. — Milton R. Shefter (Secretary/Treasurer), Paramount Pictures Corp.

Houston, May 22, 1990 — Production computer programs for the Amiga 2500/30 were demonstrated during the May section meeting, held at Microresearch Computers. Steve Sinders, corporate liaison, explained to the 40-person audience how the system's Motorola 68030 processor and the 68882 math coprocessor work simultaneously, allowing the operator to write scripts and create graphic designs at the same time. While the graphics are being rendered, it is also possible for the operator to use the word processor or budgeting capabilities. Tony Johnson, art director, showed both the 2-D and 3-D graphics programs and a genlock accessory that permits the merging of videotape and/or live camera with any output of the Amiga. Other accessories, such as color scanners, network systems, and a wide variety of animation graphics and word processing programs were also demonstrated. Video Toaster, a new combination program/hardware system, was described by Richard Hutchinson, Media Productions International. He showed a videotape illustrating the system's DVE and other flexible characteristics. — Robert Musburger (Secretary/Treasurer), University of Houston.

Montreal/Quebec, April 18, 1990 — At a meeting held at Maison de Radio-Canada, the 63-member audience toured the three audio post-production suites and saw a full demonstration of the digital and analog installations. They also discussed certain problem areas in television sound, such as listening conditions and standards, and the dynamic range of audio tracks and their adaptation to accommodate broadcasting limitations. Noise-reduction methods developed to eliminate unwanted studio background noise at the post-production stage were also mentioned. A screening of various CBC productions was shown in order to demonstrate these audio difficulties, followed by a question-and-answer session. — Rene Villeneuve (Chairman), National Film Board of Canada.

Nashville, April 20, 1990 — The April section meeting was a combined assembly of the Memphis ITVA and the Tennessee Organization Producers Services (TOPS). The meeting, held at the Federal Express Video Production Department, focused on digital video recording.

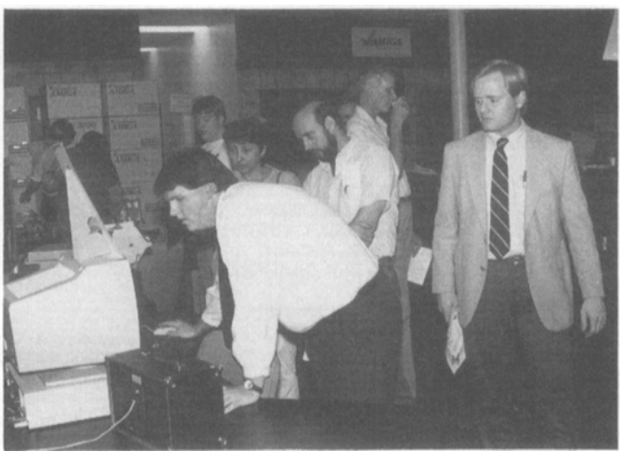
Steve Jones, Federal Express, started off the meeting by describing the function of the Federal Express television facility, which uplinks a daily program via a full-time G-Star 1 transponder to 1200 viewing sites. The studio operates remote-controlled recorders at the receive sites. The primary formats used are Beta SP and 1-in.

Steve B. Carr, Sony, gave a slide presentation on the D-2 format. He then compared D-1 and D-2, discussed NTSC video recording problems, and evaluated the performance of the 1-in. format as compared to D-2. Audio performances were also discussed and video noise performance was compared. Because of the 1-in. format's FM recording system, the noise increases at chroma frequencies, which does not happen in a digital system. In addition, digital recording has no moiré distortion because of the elimination of the FM recording system. Digital interface methods were also mentioned, as well as the tape head system, track allocations, and the elimination of guard bands. Error correction and error concealment were also discussed.

Carr also showed digital tapes demonstrating the performance of the new Sony DVR-2 portable recorder and compared them to multigeneration copies. At the close of the meeting, Jones gave the 28 attendees a tour of the Federal Express facility. — Gene Parker (Secretary/Treasurer), WKRN-TV.

Nashville, May 18, 1990 — The history and progress of the television receiver industry was the topic of the May meeting, held at Philips Consumer Products television manufacturing plant. According to David Lynch, manager of production engineering and test engineering, in 1980 the average production time for a small-screen television set was 4.1 hrs and 6.8 hrs for a large-screen TV. Today, it takes only 1 hr to build a direct-view TV set.

Tony Johnson demonstrating a graphics computer at the Houston Section meeting.



Houston Section members experimenting with a multifunction graphics computer during the May meeting.

Gary Youngs, Glen Pensinger, and Aubrey Harris at the Sutro Tower site in San Francisco.

The Philips plant, which was established in 1963, encompasses 1,100,000 sq. ft., and is built on 64.3 acres. It has a peak employment of 3200 and manufactures sets ranging from 19-in. table models to 52-in. projection consoles. The production capacity is 6000 direct-viewing sets per shift and 400 projection sets per shift.

After his presentation, Lynch, along with Bobby Constable and Ray Allen of Philips, took the nine-member group on a tour of the facility. They were shown that one of the production lines uses sequential testing of the chassis boards in an automatic alignment station built in Belgium, while the older assembly lines use parallel testing of circuit boards. The total test time is approximately 40 sec/board. The lines have Fuji CP-II machines for installing surface mount devices on the circuit boards. — Gene Parker (Secretary/Treasurer), WKRN-TV.

Rochester, May 17, 1990 — Russ and Mark Lopresti, SEV/Sherwin-Greenberg Productions, gave a tour of the company's new facilities, which include two edit suites; two sound stages; a Grass Valley 200-2 switcher; a Sony 900 edit controller; a Dubner still store and paint box; and 1-in., D-2, and Betacam SP equipment. The 20-member group was also able to view the Ku-band uplink truck. — Richard Bauer (Secretary/Treasurer), Eastman Kodak Co.

San Francisco, May 24, 1990 — The San Francisco Section's May meeting took place at Sutro Tower, the central television and FM broadcasting facility for the Bay Area. Don Lincoln, director of engineering, explained the history of the tower to the 75-member audience. At first, the facility operated out of Sutro Mansion, which was built by Adolph Sutro, who also built the Sutro Tunnel in the Comstock Lode of Virginia City, Nev., in the 1860s.

The Sutro Tower, which uses three legs, rises 977 ft above its 834-ft base, giving it a total elevation of 1811 ft. It supports ten TV antennas (one inoperative) at the 762-ft level and four FM antennas at the 657-ft tower level. At the 187-ft level, an array of eight standby antennas and two FM antennas are mounted. The tower is based on solid rock and each leg of the tower has 1100 cu. ft. of concrete at its base. It was designed to withstand an earthquake with a Richter scale of 8, so no damage occured during last year's 7.1 earthquake.

Roy Trumbull, KRON-TV, explained the technology of the new Larkan 44-kW solid-state transmitters that were recently installed at the tower. He explained that because the new solid-state transmitters have "an abundance of redundancy," they are very stable and rarely, if ever, fail. If one portion of the transmitter should fail, other standby "redundant" circuits take over.

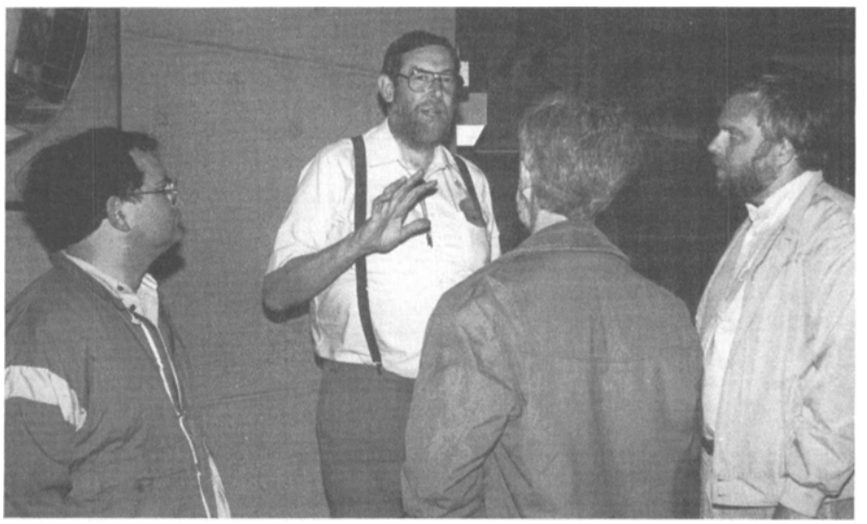
Following the formal presentations, the audience broke up into several smaller groups and toured the facilities of Channels 2 and 4. — Vernon L. Kipping (Secretary/Treasurer), Consultant.

Toronto, April 10, 1990 — "The Uniqueness of TV" was discussed at a meeting held at the Youth Television Network (YTN). Kevin Shea, president, opened the program with the historical background of the network and offered some insight concerning its programming philosophy. He also noted that special production requirements are needed to serve a youth-oriented audience.

Harvey Rogers, director of operations, provided the audience with a description of how YTV's unique requirements were translated into technical facilities. He outlined its objectives as being self-contained, operationally friendly, flexible in design, and well-protected from a backup system's point of view. A description of how those objectives were realized was provided through a discussion of YTV's automation facilities for television distribution, which is through a primary and delayed satellite-delivered television service.

Stuart Turner, chief engineer, discussed the network's progress in achieving "almost fully automated" master control operations. He described YTV's LMS Betacart operation, focusing on special issues surrounding preparation and airing of tapes in a multisegment format. The discussion gave the audience a user's perspective of the benefits and pitfalls associated with automated multisegment programming.

Tom Rudman, graphic designer, described how the network creates animated sequences. He presented a brief description of the techniques used to accomplish match-moves between classically animated foregrounds and computer animated backgrounds. The meeting closed with a tour of the network's facilities, followed by an informal discussion. — Peter Laidlaw (Manager), Imagineering Ltd.



Roy Trumbull explaining transmitter technology to members of the San Francisco Section.