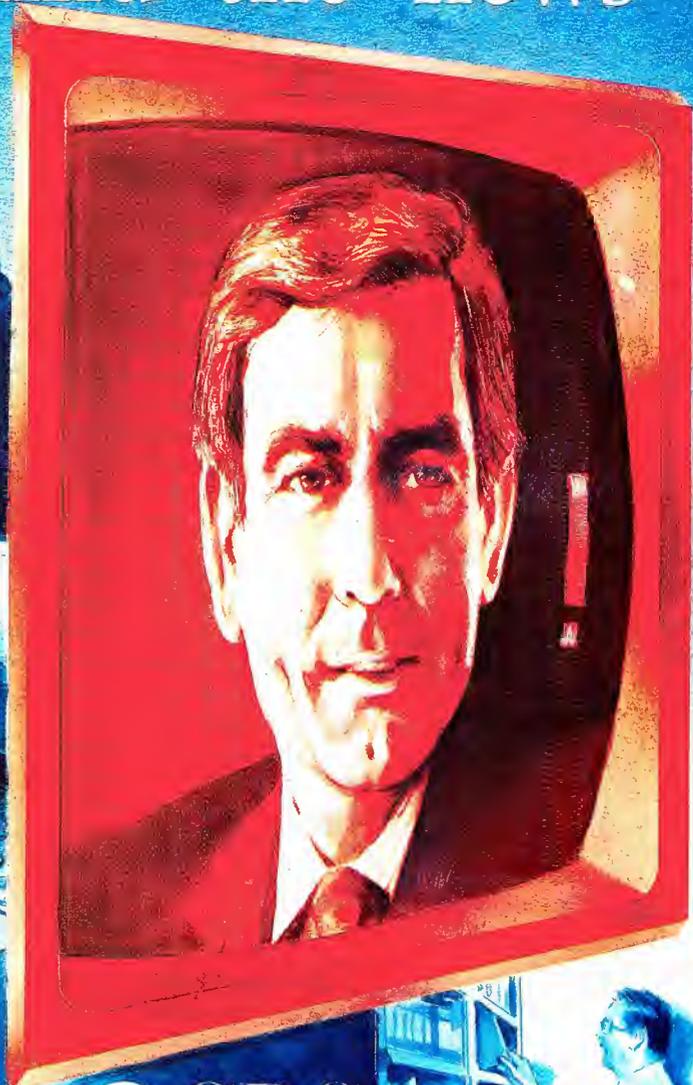


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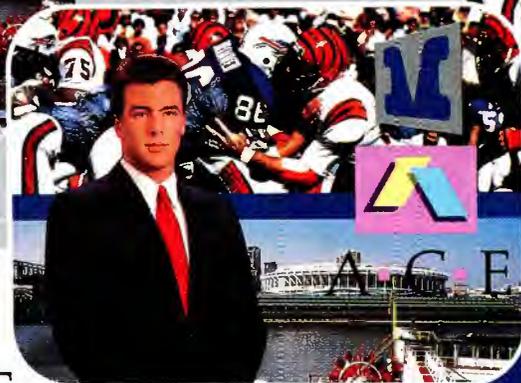
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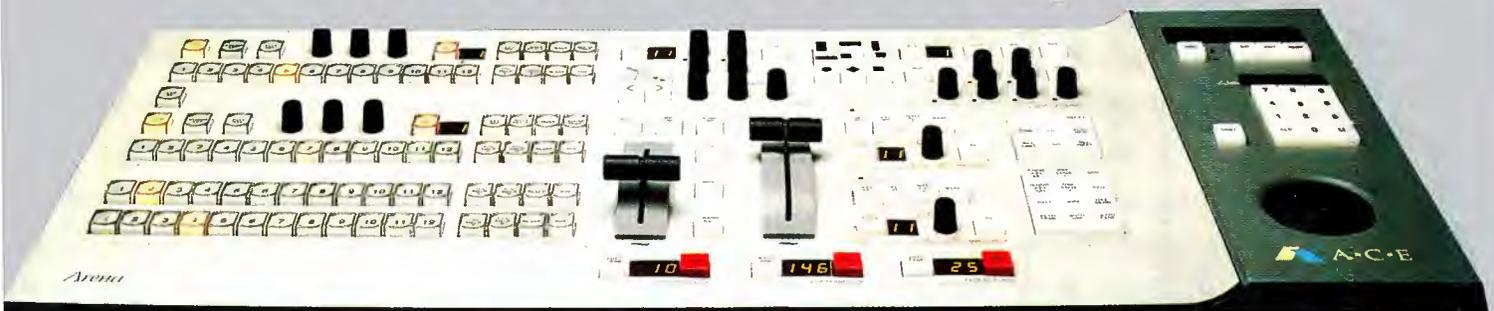
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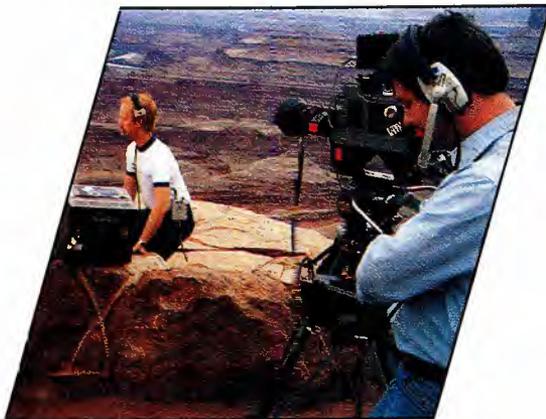
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WORLD-CLASS REMOTES:

Radio and TV stations are moving into the field in increasing numbers. Live remote broadcasting adds interest and immediacy to any program, and is invaluable in the coverage of news events. Field work also is proving to be an important marketing tool for local radio and TV stations. This month, we examine how stations can keep up with the pace of mobile technology.

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By Bebe F. McClain, B.F. McClain, Inc.

Getting a fast-breaking news story from a remote site to the viewer's living room is not a job for the faint of heart.

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By Rick Lehtinen, TV technical editor

With good planning and communications, any remote can be world-class.

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50 Broadcasters Respond to the Quake

By Peter Hammar, broadcast consultant

As the world watched, broadcasters of the San Francisco Bay Area struggled to tell the unfolding story of the earthquake. Their experiences provide valuable lessons for all broadcasters.

ON THE COVER

Technology has reshaped the news business for both radio and television. Broadcasting live from the scene of a major news story has become commonplace. Our cover this month illustrates the integration of news and technology. Illustration by Ned Steinberg, director of graphic arts for CBS News.

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Chyron and Midwest reach agreement

Chyron, Melville, NY, and Midwest Communications, Edgewood, KY, have reached an agreement in principle to form a holding company that would operate as separate subsidiaries. Under the merger, each share of Chyron would be exchanged for one share of the holding company and each share of Midwest would be exchanged for 2.67 shares of the holding company.

Also, the parties have agreed in principle that the board of directors of the holding company would consist of 10 members, five designated by each of the parties. Alfred O.P. Leubert, chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Chyron, would be chairman of the holding company. David K. Barnes, president and chief executive officer of Midwest Communications, would be president and chief executive officer of the holding company.

The transaction is subject to approval by

the boards of directors of each company, to the negotiation of a definitive merger agreement and to approval by the shareholders of both companies.

Ritchie assumes post as Ampex president

Ronald J. Ritchie has assumed the position of president of Ampex. He succeeds Max O. Mitchell, who retired at the end of December. Mitchell will remain on the board of directors and serve as chairman of its executive committee.

Ritchie joined Ampex as vice president and division manager of the recording systems division in August 1988. He was named executive vice president and chief operating officer in August 1989.

Ritchie's career includes senior management positions with Texas Instruments, Allied-Signal and Bunker Ramo Information Systems. He has experience in management, marketing, overseas operations and engineering for high technology, computer and consumer products.

McCurdy joins ATTC

John G. McCurdy Jr, has joined the Advanced Television Test Center (ATTC) as manager, equipment and facilities. He is responsible for the management of the test center's technical facilities, including the special-purpose equipment being assembled for the testing of several different systems for transmitting high-definition television.

The test center moves to new facilities this month, and will complete its testing laboratory in the spring.

McCurdy comes to ATTC from WJLA, channel 7, Washington, DC, where he was assistant director of engineering. He was responsible for the design and construction of technical and office space, RF system, studios, microwave, satellite, telecommunications and computer systems of WJLA's new station complex at the Intel-sat Center.

McCurdy is a graduate of Ithaca College in New York. He is an active member of

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BROADCAST engineering

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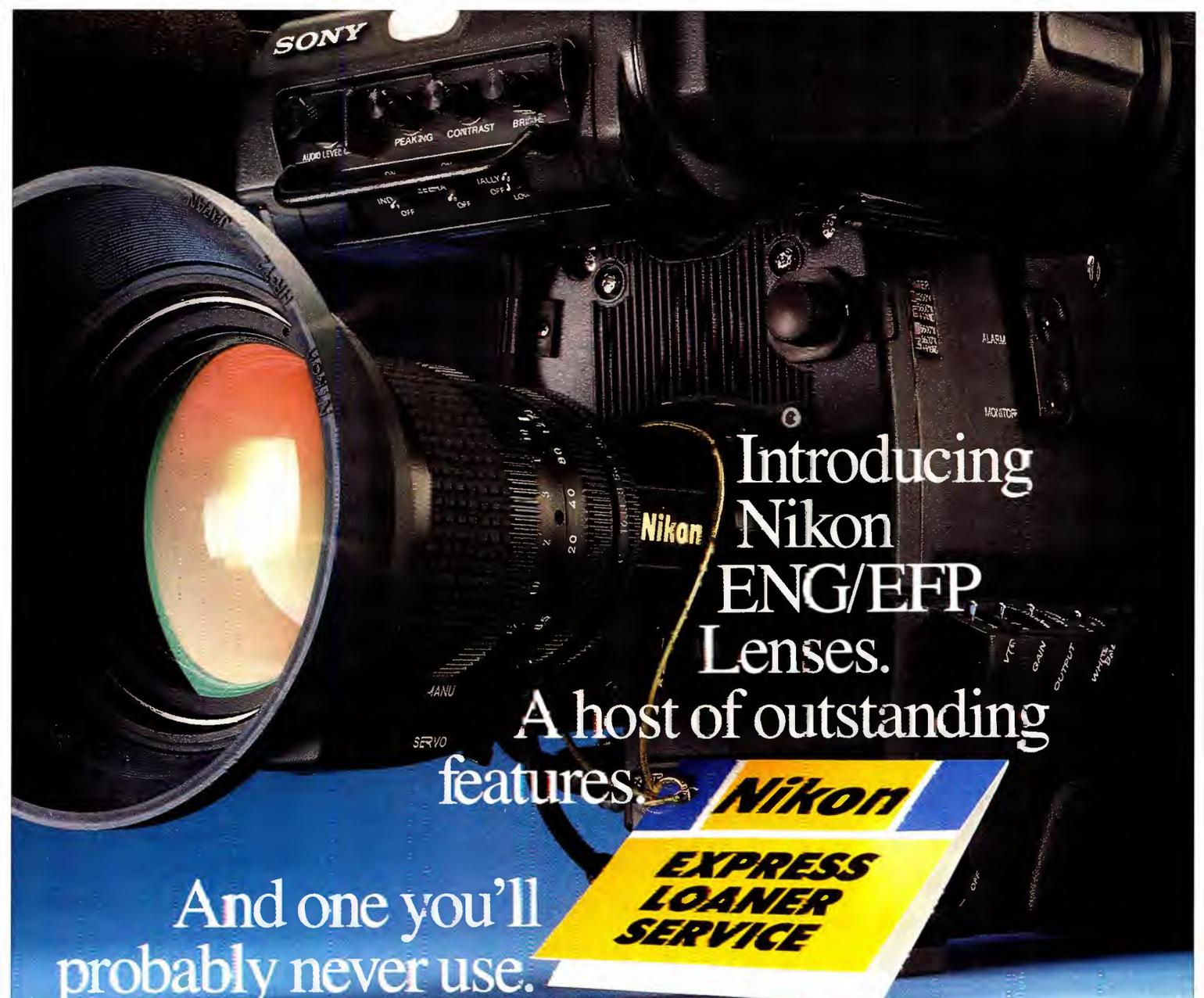
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New York or bust

The 131st SMPTE show is now history. Overall, the gathering in Los Angeles (Oct. 21-25) was good, even though attendance on the show floor was light. The first day (Saturday) offered exhibitors their best opportunity to justify attending the convention. A variety of reasons was offered for the light turnout, including the Bay Area earthquake, which occurred four days before the convention opened, and the tight scheduling between SMPTE and AES.

In any event, the main gripe of exhibitors wasn't the '89 Los Angeles show, but centered instead on the 1990 SMPTE set for the Jacob Javits Convention Center in New York. A number of companies have threatened to pull out of SMPTE shows in New York unless changes are made in the attitudes of management and labor unions at Javits.

Exhibitors came away from the '88 show in New York with horror stories about shabby treatment by labor unions working the hall. The consensus was that the only way to get things done in Javits was to flash cash.

There is a general sense that the union situation in Javits is out of control. Exhibitors cite problems ranging from equipment damage to intimidation.

SMPTE officials promise that the problems experienced at Javits in '88 won't be repeated this fall. Many exhibitors, however, aren't convinced. Most are willing, therefore, to give SMPTE the benefit of the doubt and allow Javits one more try.

Concern about New York as a venue was not helped by reports from the AES convention, which concluded just one day before SMPTE opened. AES, held in the Hilton and Sheraton Center hotels in midtown Manhattan, experienced what may have been an all-time record for thefts — well into six figures. Numerous items were stolen from the floor of the Hilton exhibit areas, both during and after show hours when the halls were supposed to be secured. (The favorite

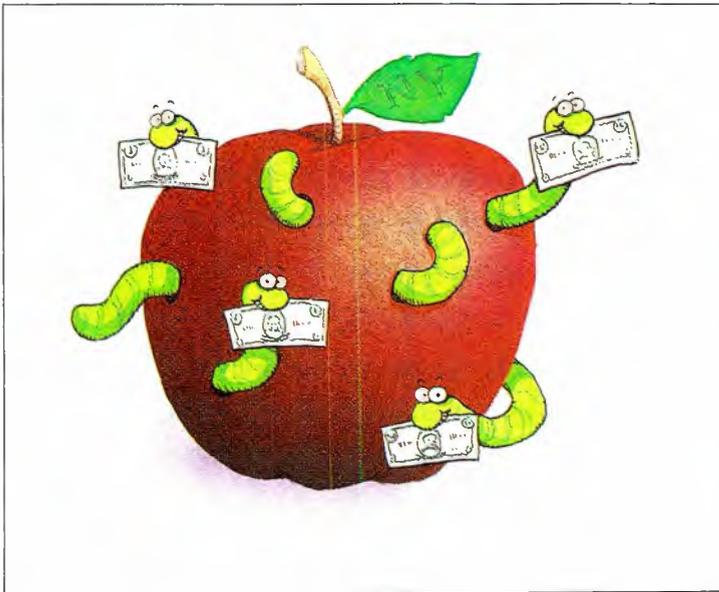
items for theft were speakers and DAT players.)

A month before AES, exhibitors at Video Expo in New York, held at Javits, reported the theft of several cameras and monitors. As usual, no suspects were apprehended.

All in all, exhibitors don't like to go to New York. Nobody can blame them. The hotel rates are high, shipping expenses are outrageous and nothing happens without a pocket full of \$50 and \$100 bills. (\$20s will only get you insults.) When you do a convention in the Big Apple, you check your pride and sense of fair play at La Guardia.

Nevertheless, SMPTE will venture back to Gotham City this fall, and we'll all be there. But the leadership of the society and other associations planning exhibitions in the city had better start listening to the manufacturers who pay the bills at conventions. If not, they may find that no exhibitors will show up to underwrite their shows.

Oh, yes, one other thing. SMPTE announced in Los Angeles that it has already signed up for the Javits Center in 1992. Good move, guys.



Jerry Whitaker,
editorial director

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Status of FCC station operation rules

By Harry C. Martin

The past few years have seen sweeping deregulation of the broadcast industry. As part of the FCC's new approach, the agency's oversight of station technical operation and logging has been drastically reduced. The regulations that remain are being enforced vigorously, however, and stations should not take the commission's rule relaxations as a signal that the chief operator's fundamental responsibility to maintain a technically sound operation has been diminished. With these considerations in mind, here is a summary of current FCC operational requirements as well as a list of typical problems found in FCC inspections:

Operators: All broadcast stations must have at least one person who holds a commercial radio operator license or permit (of any class, unless otherwise endorsed) in charge of the transmitter at all times during station operation. This operator may be stationed at the transmitter site, at an ATS monitor and alarm point or at another place where extension meters are installed. The operator must be trained in the operation and adjustment of the transmitter and must be able to observe and control the transmitter while on duty. The operator is permitted to do other work while on duty (disk jockeys or announcers), as long as that work does not interfere with the proper operation of the transmission system.

Chief operators: Each broadcast station must have a chief operator designated in writing with a copy of that designation posted with the station's license. If the chief operator is hired on a contract basis (as is allowed for AM stations under 10kW and all FM stations), the contract must be in writing and in the station's files. Chief operators need not be full-time but are required to work the number of hours necessary to fully perform their prescribed duties. The chief operator must hold a valid operator's license (of any class, unless endorsed). If the chief operator is not available for duty because of illness or a vacation, a substitute acting chief operator must be designated temporarily. Chief



operators have the following responsibilities:

- Inspect and calibrate the station's transmission system, monitors, metering and control systems; and repair or adjust such equipment if it malfunctions.
- For AM stations that have specific measurement requirements imposed on them, the chief operator must make those measurements or tests periodically, as the rules or the station license requires.
- Once a week, the chief operator must review the station log and other records to ensure that entries are being properly recorded and that the station is being operated according to its license and the FCC's rules. The chief operator is responsible for signing off on the records after the review.
- These duties may be delegated by the chief operator, as long as he or she maintains supervisory control and responsibility for the proper execution of the tasks.

Station log: The commission officially eliminated most logging requirements in the early 1980s, but the rules still require that a station log be maintained at every AM, FM and TV station. Aside from the specific requirements listed below, the licensee is at liberty to record on its log those measurements and parameters that are of particular importance to the station. In a brief interview, an FCC field examiner told **BE** that a licensee should keep those records that are most likely to be helpful should a need arise, in order to document performance or answer other technical questions.

The station log must be kept and signed by competent station employees in a legible and easily understood format. Any changes made to log entries must be struck out and corrected, rather than erased, and all such corrections must be approved by the person who kept the log, the chief operator, the station manager or an officer of the licensee. The station log must contain the following:

- Tower lighting information: A description of any extinguished or malfunctioning light, the date and time a malfunction was noted and the date, time and nature of adjustment, repairs or replacements made.

- A record of all EBS tests sent and received. (This information can be kept on a separate log but is considered part of the station log.)
- Any other information required in the station's authorization or by the commission. For example, if an inspection of a facility shows a consistently high-power level problem, the commission may require the licensee to record transmitter power for a period of time to ensure that the problem has been remedied.
- Directional AM stations without an FCC-approved antenna sampling system have a number of additional, specific logging requirements. They are listed in section 73.1820(a)(2) of the commission's rules.

Typical problems

Here is a list of problems that frequently surface in FCC station inspections. Many of these items are easily remedied; and failure to do so could result in a substantial fine.

Safety related:

- Inadequate painting and lighting of towers.
- Inadequate locked fencing around AM towers.
- EBS operation, including missing or malfunctioning EBS monitors, failure to receive or transmit the weekly EBS test, failure to log those tests and lack of a current EBS checklist or authenticator word list.

Interference potential:

- AM directional antenna parameters and monitoring point levels outside of tolerance.
- Inadequate meters and transmitter control at the operator's position.
- Frequency and modulation outside of tolerance at TV stations.
- Overpower and other unauthorized operation of non-commercial educational FM stations.

Administrative:

- Failure to have, or items missing from, the station's public file.
- Lack of availability of the station's authorizations.

Martin is a partner with the legal firm of Reddy, Begley & Martin, Washington, DC.

Editor's note: Portions of this column are reprinted from **BE**'s November 1988 edition. (:-)))))

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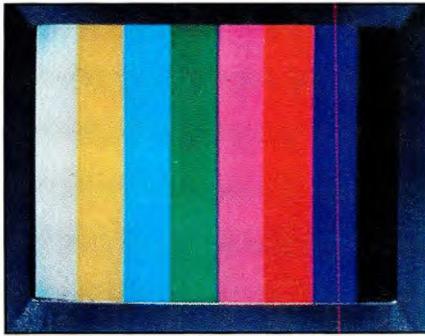
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Using wireless microphone systems

By Kenneth R. Fasen

Opportunities for using wireless microphones in newsgathering are increasing. Freedom of movement and elimination of microphone cable runs are two of many reasons why wireless equipment is desired. It has been possible to buy equipment bags with pouches that hold wireless microphone receivers near the decks, but soon you will be able to buy decks with microphone receivers built-in.

As the use of wireless microphones increases, many people will experience or hear of problems involving multiple wireless systems. However, these problems can be prevented. With some background information and familiarity with the equipment, you can be comfortable and effective in a multiple wireless microphone environment.

With a prudent choice of operating frequencies, you can comfortably use three systems simultaneously virtually anywhere. If you are free to use unused adjacent-channel TV frequencies, you can increase to six or eight systems. With planning and experience, 16 systems will perform well; but more than 16 is difficult, and dealer/manufacture assistance is highly recommended.

Equipment selection

The first step is to identify the application and specify equipment accordingly. Many high-quality, reasonably priced wireless systems are on the market. Some are body-worn and some are hand-held microphones but not all of them perform well when many are used simultaneously. This is where the equipment designers' and manufacturers' attentiveness and experience come into play. Get information on the equipment with regard to multiple wireless system usage from the manufacturer. Specifications pertinent to multiple system usage are antenna-distribution output port isolation, transmitter spurious signal output, receiver local oscillator radiation, receiver front-end and IF bandwidth. Talk with the professionals who install or use multiple wireless systems to find out what has worked for them.

Coordinate with the manufacturer to specify operating frequencies or use fre-

quencies that are known to work well for a specific model. Do not choose the frequencies yourself. Frequency selection is the single most critical and complex task in successful multiple wireless operation.

Many issues affect frequency selection, making it part art and part science. A computer program that will do the extensive arithmetic is mandatory, but intuitive interpretation of the computer output also is important. That interpretation requires some experience with the equipment make and model, some insight into RF equipment design and some firsthand application experience. Consult your equipment manufacturer or an experienced dealer.

Using the equipment

Good operating procedure also will have an effect on your wireless microphone success. Keep the equipment and cables away from sources of electrical interference (such as motors, generators and light dimmers). Keep receive antennas in line-of-sight to the transmitters. Place antennas at least three feet from metal objects. Place the two antennas from a diversity receiver/antenna distribution unit at least three feet from each other. The receive antennas should be as close as they can be to the transmitter, but no closer than 20 feet. Make the wireless transmitter/receiver coax paths as short as is practical. The installation should be neat and clean. It will look better, perform more reliably and be easier to diagnose problems, should they occur.

Leave the transmitters turned on while the receivers are on. The transmit signal will capture the receiver and minimize the effect of interference.

Also, perform an on-site system check-out at the time of day when the equipment is used. Occasionally, local interference may vary by day part. This isn't common, but it is a good insurance policy to perform this check.

Common problems

Multiple system interference can be non-existent, mild or severe. It is non-existent in only a few systems. As the number of systems grows, some compromises will invariably be made. A frequently forced

compromise is frequency intermodulation.

Intermodulation symptoms include whistles and the ability to hear a transmitter's audio on a receiver other than its companion. Unfortunately, this interference may exist, but the effects can be so mild that it is never noticed. Your equipment manufacturer can tell you if your frequencies will result in any intermodulation interference.

Intermodulation interference can be made severe by bringing the offending transmitters within inches of one another or within several feet of the affected receiver's antenna. If you know that some transmitters will be used close to one another, advise the manufacturer. It can tell you which frequencies to use in close proximity to minimize the effects of signal intermodulation.

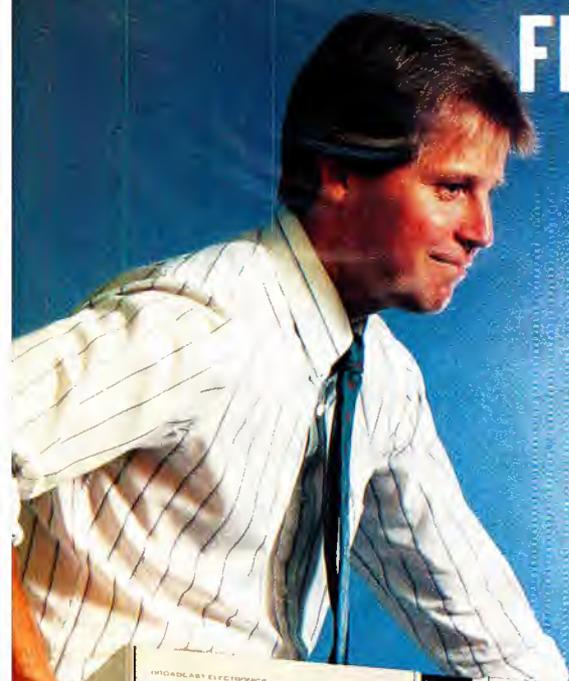
Of course, broadcasters must never forget the importance of frequency coordination. Prudent frequency selection, based on a thorough understanding of intermodulation and equipment design parameters, can make the difference between success and failure. Try to keep an updated list of wireless microphone users in your market, which includes make and model numbers. Let the manufacturer or dealer refer to this list when selecting frequencies for you.

Price is no object

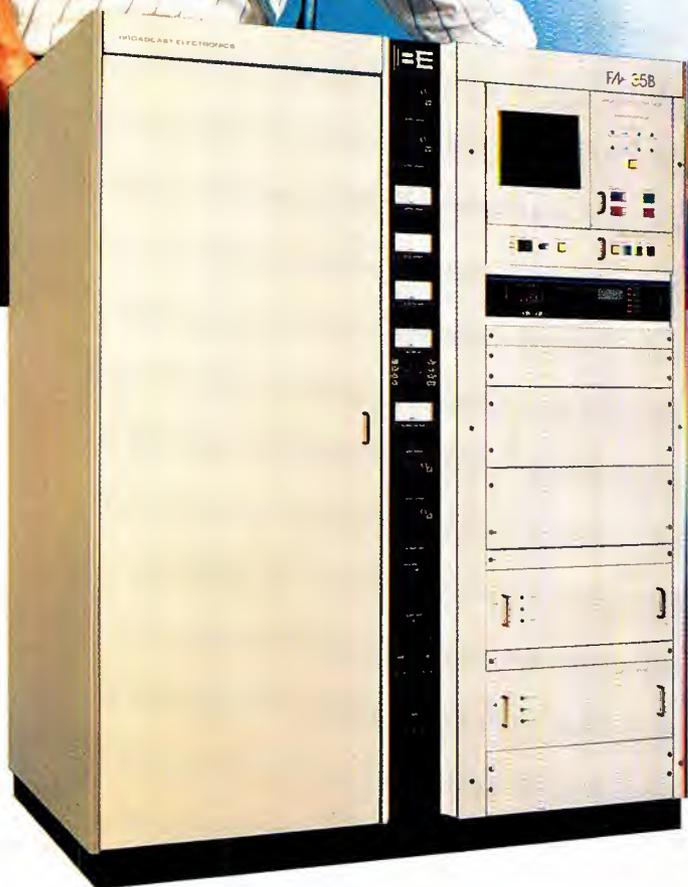
Even modestly priced systems will perform well as long as the manufacturer is attentive to the necessary equipment design requirements. Your knowledge and some technical assistance will mean success in the ever-growing applications of multiple wireless systems.

Fasen is director of engineering with HM Electronics, San Diego.

Who's Setting The Pace For FM Transmitter Technology?



When it comes to technological developments in FM transmitters, the record is very clear.



Patented Innovations

Broadcast Electronics has the largest and most skilled engineering staff dedicated to the radio broadcast equipment industry. Significant FM transmitter design patents awarded to B.E.:

- Folded Half-wave Output Cavity, patented 1982.
- Internal Second Harmonic Suppressor, patented 1982.
- Broadband Input Impedance Matching Circuit, patented 1985.

Broadcast Electronics:

- First** to introduce a Proportional VSWR Foldback System.
- First** to introduce "PWM Automatic Power Control" with "Soft Start".
- First** to offer a built-in synchronous AM test port.
- First** to design a single tube high power 30kW FM Transmitter.
- First** to introduce a single tube 10kW FM Transmitter with a 4CX7500A tube.
- First** to introduce a single tube 3.5kW FM Transmitter with a 4CX3500A tube.
- First** to introduce a Microprocessor Video Diagnostic System.
- First** to offer built-in, PC based, transmitter remote control.
- First** to offer a standard synchronous FM booster option.
- And**, Broadcast Electronics again sets the world standard for FM Exciters with the new FX 50 which stands alone in audio performance with 93 dB S/N and .003% THD and IMD.

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Broadcast Electronics is the only major FM transmitter manufacturer who designs and builds its own solid state intermediate power amplifier (IPA).

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Another trip to the lost and found

By John Battison, P.E.

Finding "lost antennas" was the subject of last month's column. Let's continue along those lines by discussing the radials that may exist on your station's maps.

After you've determined that your station is where it is supposed to be, your next job is to confirm that the radials and measuring points used are those shown on the map, or vice versa. It does no good to take a series of field-strength measurements on a radial only to find that the places where you measured are not the same ones used by the previous chief or contract engineer.

Follow the map

If you inherit a set of topographical maps that contain confusing or unclear markings, do one of two things: throw the maps away or carefully erase every mark. It's probably a better idea to just buy new maps. Before you discard the old maps, however, compare them with the new ones. There probably will be considerable differences between them. Changes usually are printed in purple. In any case, check the data section of the map. Notes about changes and dates will be listed there. It's important that the map you use is as current as possible. The newer the map, the easier it will be to locate landmarks.

Plot your transmitter site accurately. To do this, use the coordinates that the surveyor gave you (see the December 1989 "re: Radio" column). If you don't have new survey data, use the most accurate information available. It's important that the antenna site be plotted accurately on the maps.

Locate the MPs

For years, monitor-point measurements have been referenced to points such as "300 feet east of the bridge, 100 feet into the field." I worked with a station that used these types of references. I found that the array was within operating parameters, although the minor lobe for 355°T was actually at 359°T. Luckily, it measured only 13mV/m on the corrected radial and 15mV/m on the peak of the lobe, so the



array was in. You may not be so lucky.

Once you've correctly identified the monitoring point, photograph it. Make the picture more descriptive than a pose of a grinning engineer holding a field-strength meter. Be sure there is a permanent and easily recognizable feature in the picture. Telephone poles often are used as references, but including only one pole in the picture, unless it is clearly identified, is of little use. Try to get a building, roadside telephone box or something else into the scene. The image must include visual references that will be there for years.

I always used to say that telephone poles should be identified by their numbers. This advice backfired on me recently. Last year, I made measurements along a quiet country lane in a rural part of Ohio, identifying my measuring point by pole number. A few weeks ago, I went back to make a partial proof and spent several minutes looking for my numbered pole. There was no sign of it. All the poles had bright new brass number plates. You guessed it: the power company had renumbered the poles.

Again, I was lucky. My point identification read "across from pole xxx across from xxx on country road xxx." With this description, I was able to identify the correct MP location. Although the pole number was new, I still was able to find my previous measuring point. I mention this to stress the importance of complete point identification. Don't shortchange yourself on information.

Example case

In the case just described, there were no measuring-point descriptions in the station records. The old partials and skeletons merely gave point number, time, distance and value in millivolts per meter. So on each radial, I had at least two numbers to choose from for each point, and sometimes three.

It is possible to use dividers and measure from some clearly definable landmarks, such as sharp turns in the road. However, remember that the real thing sometimes looks quite different from the map's symbols.

In this case, I was able to use this map by identifying points in my own way.

Measurements were needed merely to determine radiation. Distance and millivolts per meter became the determining factors. I've since obtained new maps and marked the correct MPs referenced to identifiable points on the maps.

Extending radials across maps

At many stations I've found radials that pass over two or more maps. Too often, when these maps were made, the lines were continued merely by folding over the edges to get them out of the way. The maps then were laid edge to edge, and the radial was drawn. This is not a good way to extend radials over two or more maps.

Cutting off the margins and laying the maps together to draw the radials doesn't work well, either. Removing the margins often destroys valuable information and limits further use of the map.

Here's how I extend radials across more than one map. Measure the distance from where the radial cuts the edge of the printed portion of the map (not the paper edge) to some nearby easily identifiable point such as a longitude or latitude mark. Identify the same point on the next map, lay off the same measured distance along the edge and mark this point.

Using a protractor and the edge-referenced mark, draw the radial on the next map. When laying off radials from a transmitter site, be sure that the protractor is oriented properly so the north/south line is truly vertical and aligned with the north/south axis of the map. A parallel rule is a useful tool for this task.

Dividers also are useful for finding the distance to measuring points, but be careful when using these tools. It is easy to move a loose pair of dividers between the time you set them on the map and the time you transfer them to the scale. I prefer to make a copy of the scale, cut it out and lay it on the radial to make my measurements. In some cases, if there are plenty of maps, the actual scale can be cut out and used.

Remember that errors can be cumulative. Over a distance of 20 miles, an error of 0.1 miles becomes quite considerable. Such an error could affect the measured field. When it comes to mapwork, accuracy is the watchword.

[:(-:))]]

Battison, BE's consultant on antennas and radiation, owns John H. Battison and Associates, a consulting engineering company in Loudonville, near Columbus, OH.

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Uncommon engineers

Hilmer Swanson

By Elmer Smalling III

Editor's note: With this issue we begin a new column in **BE** — *Uncommon Engineers*. Each month the column will feature an individual who has made significant contributions to the science of broadcasting. Comments and suggestions from readers are welcome.

You may not know Hilmer Swanson by name, but you know his work. Swanson's contributions to AM radio are legendary. He developed and holds patents on three key technologies that have helped move AM radio transmitters from low-efficiency tube designs to high-efficiency, solid-state technology. Swanson's work includes:

- pulse duration modulation (PDM).
- progressive amplitude modulation (PAM).
- digital amplitude modulation.

Swanson, a senior scientist at the Harris Broadcast Division, Quincy, IL, is a dyed-in-the-wool radio engineer. His first experience in broadcasting came when he began working for a 250W daytimer in LaPorte, IN, taking meter readings. It was a good job for doing homework. It also was a job that taught him the value of an education.

Swanson... is a dyed-in-the-wool radio engineer.

After a stint in the Signal Corps during the Korean War, Swanson returned to school. He graduated in 1961 with a master's in electrical engineering from the University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA.

He went to work for Collins Radio in Cedar Rapids, IA. He had worked with Collins gear in the Army and was impressed with it. He worked in the broadcast department at Collins designing FM transmitters and, later, 250kW shortwave transmitters. Soon, his whole department was moved to Dallas. After four years in the

Smalling, **BE's** consultant on cable/satellite systems, is president of Jenel Systems and Design, Dallas.



Profile

- Senior scientist, Harris Corporation
- Holds 13 U.S. patents; five others pending
- Developed pulse duration modulation (1969)
- Developed progressive amplitude modulation (1975)
- Developed polyphase PDM (1979)
- Married with four children
- Hobbies: farming, horses
- Awards:
 - Harris Patent Hall of Fame (1969)
 - Harris Outstanding Achievement Award for SX and DX AM transmitters (1981)
 - Harris Outstanding Technical Achievement Award for PDM and PAM modulation systems (1979)

Southwest, Swanson and his family yearned to return to the Midwest.

At about that time, he heard of a job from an old friend at the Gates Radio Company in Quincy. Swanson joined Gates just as it was undertaking an order from the Voice of America for a 100kW shortwave transmitter. Gates engineers were trying to upgrade a 50kW unit by changing tube types and making other modifications. The project was behind schedule and results of the upgrade effort were not satisfactory.

Swanson came up with the idea of using a sawtooth waveform superimposed on the input audio to act as a switch, which would allow the generation of a

Swanson came up with the idea of...conveying audio through the width of individual pulses.

waveform that conveyed audio through the width of individual pulses. The modulator was substantially more complicated than previously used. However, it allowed the modulator output tube to operate in

a highly efficient Class D mode.

He tried the concept and it worked. Pulse duration modulation (PDM) was born. Nine months later, Gates delivered the 100kW transmitter using PDM, which offered greatly improved efficiency.

The customer was concerned about the new modulation system. Swanson recalls, "They were a bit nervous." But they eventually signed off on the project, and the first PDM transmitter was shipped to Asia. It is still operating today, more than 20 years later.

PDM started big and worked down to commercial broadcast powers.

The PDM project was unique in that most other new modulation technologies are designed for low-power applications and then built up to work at higher levels. PDM started big and worked down to commercial broadcast powers.

Swanson's latest credits include the digital modulation scheme implemented in the DX line of solid-state broadcast transmitters. Modulation is accomplished by digitizing the input audio and switching RF modules on and off as necessary to produce an AM waveform. The net effect is a digital-to-analog converter operating at the carrier frequency of the station. Swanson hopes to take the DX line up in power level to 100kW and above.

When Swanson is not on the job, he can be found on his farm outside Quincy. He once quipped that he gets his best ideas while astride his farm tractor. It must be working: Swanson holds 13 U.S. patents and has five more pending. Suffice it to say the top brass at Harris must consider Swanson's tractor one of the company's most valuable resources.

Swanson's talent of finding a *better way* has led to his many contributions to broadcast engineering, truly making him an uncommon engineer.

Next month: Blair Benson, author, consultant. [:-:~)]]]]]

Fortunately for us, most radio engineers look before they leap.

You've always been an analytical bunch, so we're sure you know that our MX-55NM 2-track not only gives you the features you need, but that it's also priced several thousand dollars below its nearest competitor.

We know you're not about to overlook *major* features, like HX-Pro™ bias optimization, or gapless seamless punch-in punch-out, or that famous Otari sound. However, here's some fine points to examine as you do your "apples-to-apples" with our competitors.

For example, the MX-55NM incorporates a printed-circuit capstan motor (like that used on our MX-80 multitrack machine).

This not only gives you low wow and flutter right out of the chute, but very fast start times.

It's also worth noting that EQ selection and Reference Fluxivity values can



A 1.5" cast alloy deckplate, plus cast side frames give the MX-55NM the rigidity and ruggedness you've come to expect from Otari. (Lo our competitors show you the inside of their machines?)

be changed with a flip of a switch. And as you put the deck



Three cue locations and a zero memory can be accessed via the MX-55NM's built-in locator.

through its paces, notice that the vari-speed control

provides 0.01% step resolution. This means you can make precise changes, and perhaps more importantly, you can repeat a change *exactly* when necessary.

For your convenience, an optional voice editing module maintains normal pitch at twice normal speed. And the meter-bridge keeps knobs and switches out of the way while you're editing.



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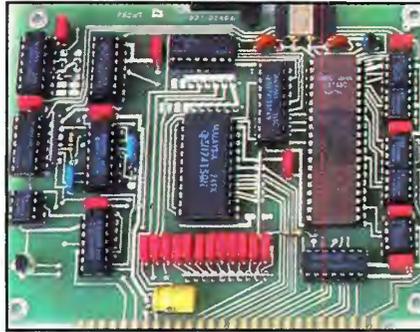
In the Otari tradition, we make the MX-55NM easy to service. Only four screws get you into the transport electronics. And when you get there, all servicing can take place with wiring intact. We also hinge all service panels, and use locking cable inter-connects.

The specs? Why not call your nearest Otari dealer, or Otari at (415) 341-5900 and check them out. Like everything else, you'll find them "right on the money."



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How to construct a Smith chart

By Gerry Kaufhold II

The equations that describe the relationships between current and voltage in a transmission line can be quite cumbersome. A graphical tool to provide ready approximations to these relationships is the Smith chart.

About the chart

The Smith chart is built around two families of curves. The first of these families is the resistance circles. (See Figure 1.)

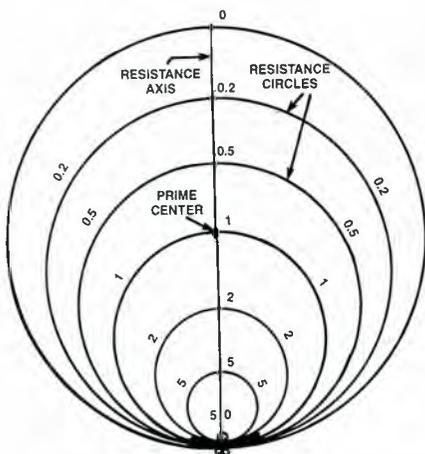


Figure 1. Resistance circles of the Smith chart coordinate system.

These are centered on the only straight line on the chart, the vertical line called the resistance axis. Notice that the concentric circles are given values starting with zero at the top and ending with infinity at the bottom. These are ratios of whatever value is assigned to the center point, called the prime center, which has a value of 1.0.

In operation, the prime center usually is set equal to the characteristic impedance of the transmission line, and the ratios of each circle are used as multipliers. This normalizes the chart for any value you care to assign the prime center. All points along a resistance circle have the same resistance.

The second family of curves is the reactance curves, shown in Figure 2. Only segments of these are plotted, and the resis-

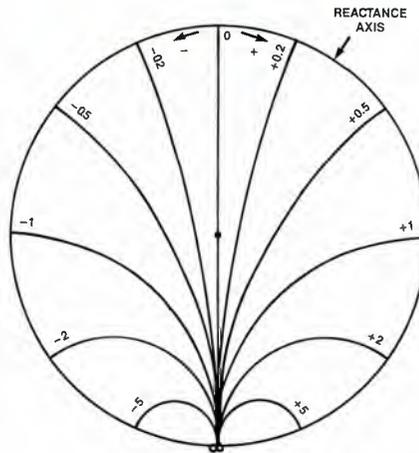


Figure 2. Reactance curves of the Smith chart coordinate system.

tance axis is one member of the family (with an infinite radius). As with the resistance family, these curves are labeled with normalizing multipliers, with respect to prime center. Also, all points along any one curve have the same reactance value.

Plotting on the chart

Combining these curves yields a precursor to the Smith chart. Let's plot a couple of practice points. Recalling that a short circuit has zero resistance and zero reactance ($0 + 0j$), plot that at the top of the chart.

For some more useful numbers, assume a characteristic impedance of 100Ω . Let's say you wish to plot an impedance of 50Ω and an inductive reactance of 100Ω . Assign prime center a value of 100Ω , then divide each component of the impedance by 100. The normalized values then would be $50/100 + j(100/100)$, or $0.5 + j1.0$. This can be plotted on the chart, using the intersection of the 0.5 resistance circle and the $+1.0$ reactance curve.

Assume you are using 75Ω transmission line, as in a video cable. Setting prime center to 75, you have impedance that equals $50/75 + j(100/75) = 0.66 + j1.33$. This plots slightly below and to the left of the previous point, as shown in Figure 3. Therefore, it can be seen that the same impedance may occupy different positions

on the chart, depending on the value chosen for prime center.

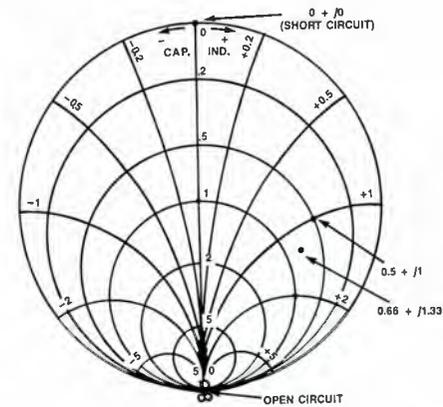


Figure 3. Complete Smith chart coordinate system, with sample values plotted.

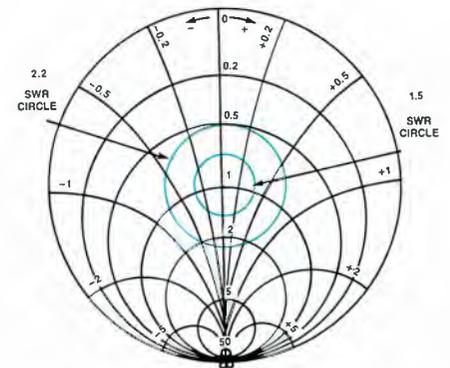


Figure 4. SWR circles drawn on a Smith chart.

SWR

One other family of useful circles, usually not printed on the chart, is plotted with a compass, as needed. These are the standing wave ratio (SWR) circles. They occur as concentric circles centered on prime center. With one compass leg on prime center, which has multiplier 1.0, move down the chart coordinate system marks until you come to one that corresponds to the SWR of interest. Draw the circle at that point. SWRs of approximately 1.5:1 and 2.2:1 are indicated, as shown in Figure 4.

Kaufhold is a market development engineer for SGS-Thomson Microelectronics, Phoenix.

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The future offers real promise for AM radio. NRSC AM radios are almost here, factory-installed in new cars. Soon, home stereos and portable sets will also be NRSC-equipped.

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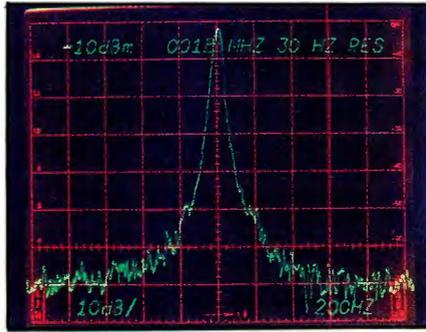
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CD troubleshooting

By Brad Dick,
radio technical editor



By precisely arranging where data is stored along the tracks of a compact disc, it is possible to reduce the chance for a total loss of audio information. Compact disc players deal with missing data in three ways: error-correction, error concealment (interpolation) and muting. The sophisticated error correction used in CD recording is called the *cross-interleaved Reed-Solomon code* (CIRC).

With error correction, the player replaces the missing information. In the simplest of terms, the player uses redundant data stored along with the audio to correct for errors in data recovered from the disc. Error correction means that the player has determined exactly what the missing information was and has replaced it in the datastream. The resulting output is an exact replication of the originally encoded information.

Suppose not enough information is available for the player to correct or replace the missing data. In that case, the player shifts to the second stage of error correction, called error concealment. Unlike error correction, error concealment is a guess of what the missing data was. It is an interpolation based on the data surrounding the missing bits.

Some players may use an average of the preceding and following points. More sophisticated schemes involve complex calculations including a weighted average of several samples taken before and after the damage.

Error concealment sometimes can be heard. If it's audible, it means that the player is having to replace many pieces of data literally hundreds of times per second. In loud passages, you may hear a ripping sound or a series of clicks. Interpolation is usually inaudible during soft passages.

The third stage of error correction is really not correction at all. If the data is

completely corrupted or missing, the player may simply mute the audio. If applied for short periods, especially during quiet passages, it may be undetectable. A large scratch may cause the player to mute for long periods, creating the impression that the player has skipped tracks.

Measuring the error

CD manufacturers can measure the amount of error on a disc. The term used is *block-error rate* (BLER). An accepted gauge of error frequency is how many 6-sample, $1/7.350$ -second blocks containing one or more data errors occur in one second. The official Red Book specifies that this reading be made over a period of 10 seconds. The maximum BLER is 220 block errors per second. The average BLER throughout the disc must be less than 10.

Block-error rate is not the only measurement to be applied to CD quality. One test measurement on sample discs showed error rates ranging from a low of five to a high of 550. Even with the high error rate, the tester reported that it was impossible to hear any difference.

What this means is that a BLER of 220 is a conservative number. As long as no interpolation or muting occurs, the exact value is immaterial to the sonic quality of the disc.

Some disc manufacturers have tried to sell their products based on BLER alone, but it really has little bearing on the quality of the recovered audio. Also, BLER does not take into account several other important parameters. As long as the player does not have to guess about missing data (and the BLER is less than 220, the Red Book standard), the output will be identical to the recorded signal.

Test discs

With all the emphasis on the problems

associated with recovering the CD signal, how can you evaluate players? There is no single standard by which players can be assessed. When it comes to player testing and maintenance, each manufacturer specifies a different test disk. Therefore, it's best to use the disc recommended by the manufacturer.

If you can afford only one, consider the Philips CC test set (17165500-40). Table 1 lists some players and the suggested test discs. For the sake of discussion, let's look at the Philips set of discs. One disc contains audio signals for CD audio alignment and performance measurements, and the other contains several types of simulated disc damage.

The first test simulated by the TS5A contains a wedge-shaped pattern of damaged inner surface. The damage existed on the mold, so each test disc is the same. The wedge has a minimum width of $400\mu\text{m}$ and widens in $100\mu\text{m}$ increments out to $900\mu\text{m}$ wide. It simulates pinholes of steadily increasing size. (Remember that the Red Book specifies that air bubbles be less than $100\mu\text{m}$ and black spots be less than $200\mu\text{m}$ in diameter.) Compact disc players should be able to play at least the $400\mu\text{m}$ section of the wedge without audible problems.

The disc also contains a series of black dots that are $300\mu\text{m}$, $500\mu\text{m}$, $600\mu\text{m}$ and $800\mu\text{m}$ in diameter. The dots are painted on the outer surface of the disc and simulate dust particles trapped in the polycarbonate. Philips recommends that all players be able to properly handle at least the $300\mu\text{m}$ dot.

Fingerprints are a common phenomenon with CDs. This is simulated on the Philips disc by a grid of dots, rectangular in shape. The grid is parallel to the track direction, making the test even more difficult.

PLAYER	RECOMMENDED TEST DISC
Denon	Denon
Studer/Revox	Philips TS5A
Sony	YEDS-7
	YEDS-18

Table 1. Recommended test discs for some CD players.

Acknowledgment: Appreciation is expressed to Laura Tyson, sales engineer, Denon America; Martin Ledford, quality control manager, Denon Digital Industries; and Dave C. Bowman, director of professional products, Studer Revox for their help with this column.



“We’ve always known JVC makes great cameras...”



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For further information call 1-800-JVC-5825 or write JVC PROFESSIONAL PRODUCTS COMPANY, 41 Slater Drive, Elmwood Park, NJ 07407.



...so we were especially interested to hear about their new KY-25U three chip camera. We've been looking for a camera that offers at least 700 lines of resolution, can dock with our component VTR's, and won't eat up our limited budget."

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World-class remotes

By Rick Lehtinen, issue editor

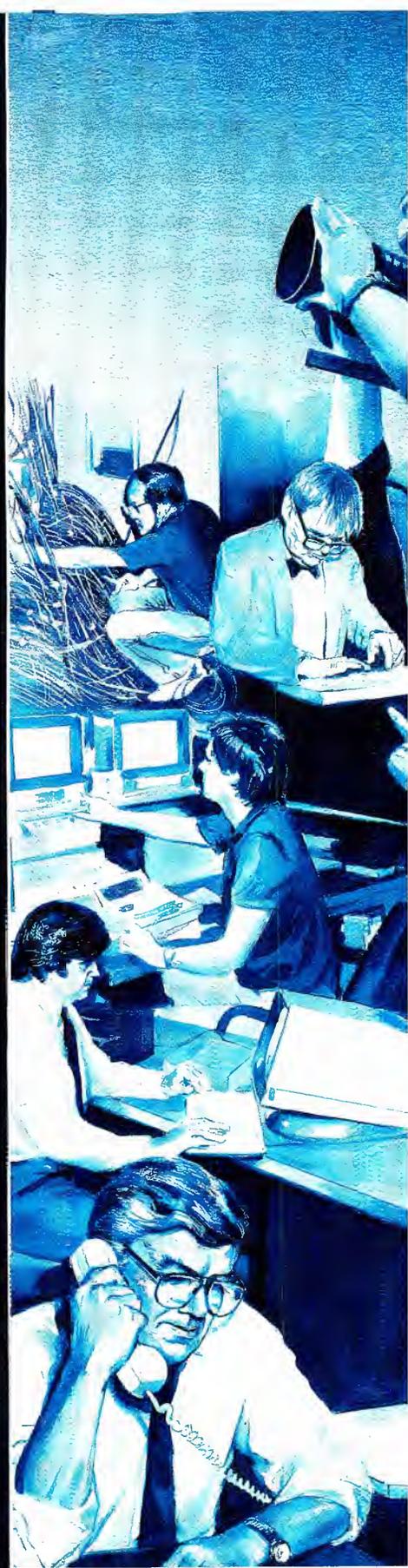
With care and dedication, any remote, whether local or national, can look like a world-class event.

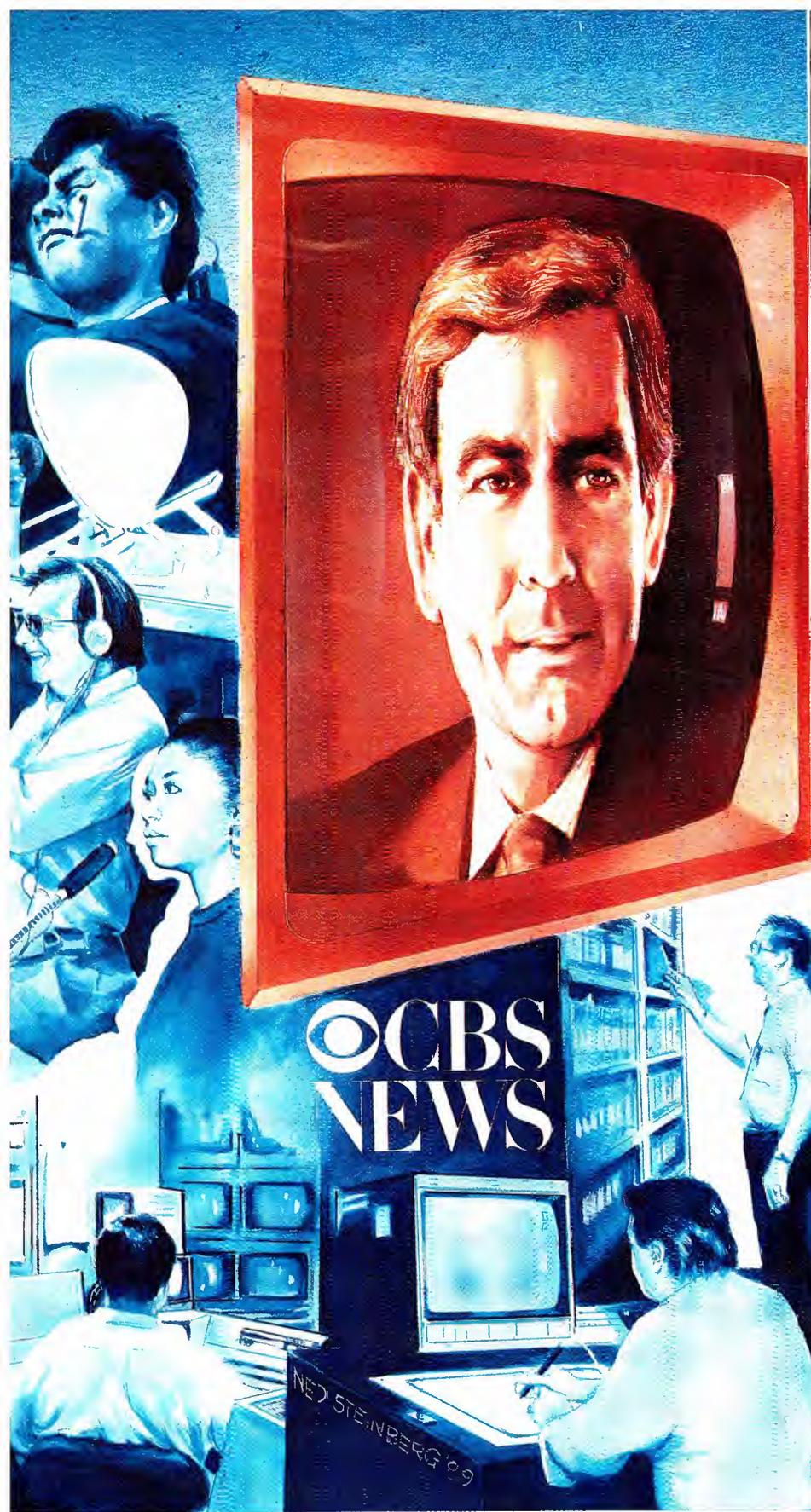
There is an old saying that goes, "The shoemaker's kids run barefoot." If this generalization were true, there are likely two reasons for it. First, the shoemaker's resources must go into the production of shoes for sale to earn money. (No one said the shoemaker's kids should go hungry). Second, after a day spent filling orders for impatient customers, the shoemaker's own feet probably needed a rest. This made it easier to tell the kids to "get by without shoes a little longer."

Anyone who has done remote production knows it is the same with broadcasting. We're in the communications industry, but we often are not great communicators. Our efforts go toward keeping the public informed; but our associates often get left in the dark. We will spend hours creating graphics describing the technical ramifications of basketball's shot clock, but scrawl instructions for tuning a microwave receiver on a 3"x5" card.

We can't pull this off forever. If we want to consistently produce top-quality programming from the field we must eventually pay the price of solid planning, and do a good job of communicating plans to those concerned.

To gain the master's touch in any field, you must study the masters. This month, we will gain insights





from several of them. Additionally, we will take a peek at some emerging technologies for field communication, including some enhancements to cellular telephones.

Articles in this month's coverage of remotes include:

- "On the Road with CBS News" page 26
- "Making the Most of Remotes" 38

Outside broadcasts, such as wars, funerals, barbecues or any other serious endeavor, are successful when well-planned and adequately advertised. As more stations do more live work from the field, the need to coordinate and communicate will increase.

Rick Lehtinen

**Rick Lehtinen,
TV technical editor**

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BROADCAST PRODUCTS

On the road with CBS News

By Bebe F. McClain

Getting a fast-breaking news story from a remote site to the viewer's living room is not a job for the faint of heart.

Success in the news business requires team effort by writers, producers, reporters, on-air talent, administrative personnel, engineers and technicians. Much has been written about the "front side" of TV production, but few kudos have gone to those technical titans on the "back side" of the camera.

This story is about people — the road warriors of CBS News, the non-prima donnas of broadcast. It is a rare glimpse into an organization that will hardly slow down long enough to have its own picture taken.

CBS News Division (CND) Operations Group, headed by Jim Paterson, is composed of people who supply, operate and maintain the coverage equipment, capture the event at some remote site and manage to send it, intact, to CBS News in New York, where it is integrated into the news broadcast before distribution to the viewers. When it comes to remote coverage, they work under these mandates: *Get the equipment there, get the story out, and be the first.* Whether the location is Broadway or Botswana, these people are not deterred by weather, political unrest, uncertain power supplies, danger or other impediments.

Planning for portability

Throughout 1982, a team at CBS News worked diligently to outline its requirements for modular remote broadcast systems. These were portable broadcast production centers that were built into cases. Once on site, the cases were stacked, the doors removed and the units wired together. Included in these modules were feed packs containing audio and video switchers, TBCs, test equipment, signal generators and monitors. CBS could be on the air with a remote broadcast within minutes.

It took time and research to decide on the equipment that would be applicable for a wide range of remote broadcasts.

McClain is president of B. F. McClain, Inc., Asheville, NC.

Many of the systems used were built at CBS. The hard part, as always, was finding the right people for the remote crew. Most were found within the company.

Billy Lee, maintenance supervisor, remembers the first time the new equipment was used. It almost turned out to be the last for him and the rest of the CBS News remote team.

Lee had finished work on the modules on Thanksgiving Day of 1982. He worked through the holiday in order to have everything shipped out to cover President Reagan's South American tour, where CBS had pool coverage plus its own extensive unilateral coverage.

All went well on that shakedown assignment. The new feed packs were put to a grueling test and performed well, as anticipated. But on the return flight, the chartered plane carrying the crew and equipment crashed. Luckily, no one was killed, but the belly of the plane was ripped open. The new portable feed packs survived intact, a tribute to their rugged design. The equipment had survived what was clearly a worst-case event.

In 1985, CBS News covered the World Economic Summit Meeting in Geneva, Switzerland. The remote broadcast was, at that time, considered a large production. A considerable number of equipment modules in the CBS News remote inventory were fitted together to make the remote broadcast center used in Geneva.

This particular complement of equipment has since been dubbed "a Geneva" by CBS News. A major remote now is described by the technical staff in terms such as a "Geneva minus (some equipment)," a "Geneva plus" or a "two times Geneva."

In the field

Before the coverage of President Reagan's South American tour, CBS News Operations completed a survey trip, but for many events, the team doesn't have the luxury of lead time. Fast-breaking stories, such as the TWA hijacking a few years ago,

Harris Technology in Action

"The beacons were blown out of their sockets, but our transmitter barely blinked."

Robert LaFore knows all about lightning. As Chief Engineer for WQPW-FM "Power 96" in Valdosta, Georgia, he'd better: His 600 foot tower

"Still is, in fact—it's our back-up now. Basically, we shopped around enough to be sure Harris could match or top the competition in both price and features: Things like Automatic Power Control for simple remote operation. Then we ordered a 20 kW HT 20FM transmitter."

About 45 days later WQPW's transmitter arrived (meanwhile, Robert supervised construction of a new transmitter building, tower and antenna). "We just took it out of the box and put it right on the air," he says. "Even the tuning movements were small. The installation went so smoothly, I told the factory 'You've got to do something—this transmitter's boring.'"

After a number of months of service, WQPW's HT 20FM remains just as "boring." Robert has only shut it down for routine monthly maintenance. "Even that is minimal," he told us. "I vacuum the cabinet out, check tube cooling, make sure nothing's overheating, and that's about it. Two or three times a week I do a meter check and log the readings. They hardly ever

change. In fact, we're still using almost the same tuning numbers we got from the factory. And we're getting a very noticeable improvement in audio quality from our new Harris THE-1 exciter."

As you can tell, WQPW is very proud of their new transmitter. We're just as proud that



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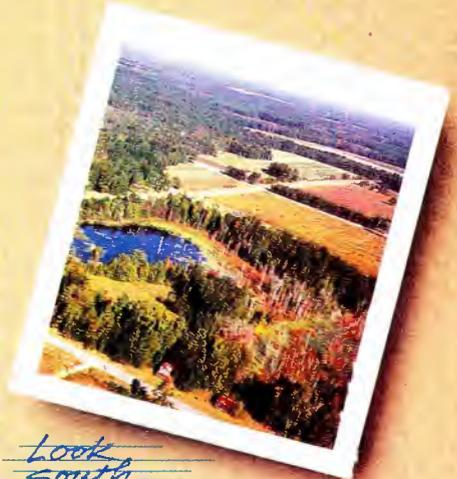
WQPW'S 600 FT. TOWER TAKES THEM WHENEVER THERE'S LIGHTNING.

is the tallest object for miles around. "We've been hit so hard the tower beacons were blown out of their sockets," he told us recently, "and so often that the lightning rod looks like someone's been beating chunks out of it with a sledgehammer. But so far our new Harris HT 20FM transmitter barely blinks at lightning. Occasionally we get a PA Plate Overload message, but that's it."

Robert also knows something about Harris reliability: Until they received a power increase to 50,000 Watts last year, WQPW had been on the air with a 3.5 kW Harris transmitter for thirteen years. "That transmitter was very good to us," Robert reports.

Chief Engineer Robert LaFore

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require the crew members to quickly make an equipment list, grab their passports and go.

The TWA plane was hijacked in the morning (Eastern Standard Time), and crew members left with equipment in the afternoon. They took cameras, field packs, three editing and four microwave systems. They leased an uplink unit and a trailer in London that was delivered by chartered plane and set up in one day.

In addition to equipment, there is a need for local "fixers" in countries such as Cyprus. These people do everything from arranging government permission for microwave use to securing hotels and ordering food on site.

For three weeks the story raged, during which time the hijacked plane was flown to Lebanon. Every day, tapes were shot in Lebanon and flown by private plane to CBS field headquarters in Cyprus for editing and transmission. The crew recalls mainly that it was "very hot."

Often it's very cold. At the Geneva summit meeting, the frigid wind blew so hard that when Lee put his cup of hot soup on a ledge for a few minutes, it froze. The knobs on the sound mixer froze so tight that they couldn't be moved. Weather can be a formidable enemy.

The time difference between these remote locations and New York often means that crew members work around the clock. By day they are taping the coverage of the events, and by night (which is daytime in New York) they are giving live reports interlaced with the prerecorded tapes.

"There is no such thing as relief people on a remote," Lee said. "The setup is not like on a mobile truck where everyone knows the layout. The man who knows is the man who set it up, so he better be there. Since you always run out of inputs, you're constantly swapping wires and only you know what's what. You get tired and hungry. If anything breaks you fix it 'cause you built it. Finally, the cardinal rule is: No matter how much cable you bring, it's never enough."

Much has been added to the CBS News field arsenal since 1982, but because of ENG field surgeons such as Lee, CBS News still has its original equipment in use. Those technicians built systems with foresight, and they made them tough knowing that their own success was riding on those systems.

RF gear

Advances in microwave equipment have allowed CBS News to wander far from its remote broadcast centers for live reports. Wayne Wright, RF supervisor, probably has encountered every problem that could come up in the field, and he's lived to joke about it. Wright oversees all portable microwave equipment, including the

hand-held 40GHz systems, satellite communications and the fly-a-ways (portable satellite uplinks).

When CBS News team members went to Cuba to cover Gorbachev's visit, they knew they wouldn't be able to rely on the Cuban telephone system. Instead, they wanted to take their DAMA (demand assignment multiple access) satellite communications system, complete with uplink, which is used in CBS Ku-band trucks.

Fast-breaking stories, such as the TWA hijacking a few years ago, require the crew members to quickly make an equipment list, grab their passports and go.

It took an incredible effort to get permission to do this. The U.S. State Department and the Federal Communications Commission had decreed that no domestic satellites could be used from abroad, and that no high-tech equipment could be taken to a communist country. Wright and Dan Klos, also of the CND RF department, flew down to Cuba in the back of a cargo plane with the DAMA unit, uplink and trailer. The last pieces of the needed equipment arrived from Miami at 3 a.m. All systems were set up by 4 a.m., with live pictures scheduled at 6 a.m. Then the announcement came: Because of the Armenian earthquake, Gorbachev was leaving Cuba. The highly touted Reagan-Gorbachev meeting never took place, but



The portable feed pack, which houses audio and video switchers, TBCs, test equipment, signal generators and monitors, has been used since 1982 in the network's modular remote broadcast systems.

the show went on, and it was a remote to remember.

The network covered Gorbachev's visit to China last year and the student uprising that followed. According to Wright, "The hardest part of this job involves times like in Cuba and China when we were up about 40 hours, with jet lag, and had to perform 100%."

"Safety is a constant concern," he said. "In China, the ac plugs look just like U.S. ones, except they carry 220V. Our equipment plugs could fit the Chinese sockets perfectly — once. Power is our biggest problem on a remote. All power is temporary. Once we have the power sorted out, it's a matter of keeping it."

Road work

When asked about the challenges, problems and rewards of remote work, Wright launched into a running dialogue that is a most descriptive dissertation on road work.

"Whenever you're setting up, you keep in mind a quick tear down," he said. "Even at my home all the hookups are temporary, after 25 years! You buy things off the shelf, and you build black boxes, then you finish them on site. Everything is...modular. We are told the minimum operational requirements, and they leave it up to us about spares. We usually add 10% for failures, but any project will expand to use all the equipment available."

"It's like packing for a picnic. What do we take? Always too much. We take boards because there is no opportunity to repair on the component level. People coming in from New York carry in parts we need. Charles Kuralt is good with parts."

"Each job is different. It's technically very challenging and creative. It's never boring. I love the spontaneity of it."

"What are the enemies? Time. Never enough of it for perfect planning or surveying. Also, weather and jet lag. You do the evening news in the morning, and you end up having to call vendors at 2 a.m. your time. There's little time to sleep. And the script is always changing, and that means setup changes. Finally, you have problems striking the setup. Everyone is in a hurry to get out, and equipment can really get damaged when you're in a rush. You'll carry those problems to your next remote."

Sometimes the biggest problem encountered is simply getting the equipment to the next remote. "We've come a long way from the Vietnam days when we sent film cameras in and flew the film out," said George Kellock, CND traffic director. "For Emperor Hirohito's funeral and the 2-week coverage in Japan, we flew in thousands of pounds of gear. For the Iceland Reagan-Gorbachev summit meeting, there wasn't enough 'lift' (commercial cargo space) available, so we chartered our own planes."



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The control room for the first World Economic Summit Meeting in Geneva, Switzerland. This package of equipment has become the standard of reference among CBS remote team members.



Despite a tangle of red tape, the remote crew took this demand assignment multiple access (DAMA) satellite communications system to Cuba for coverage of the ill-fated Reagan-Gorbachev meeting.

We use planes, overland trucks, and once, in a Boston snowstorm, we hired a man with a snowmobile. We have to get the equipment in. You can't be a day late in the TV business."

Communications

Communication is the thread that holds any large remote together. This includes communications between subsites of the remotes and also back to New York. CBS

solved its communications problems through the use of several devices, including specially built IFB systems, INMARSAT phones and a custom multiplexed digital RLX phone system.

Although CBS News had its own mix-minus matrix IFB systems built, the crew often has had to improvise on site. During the coverage of Japan following Emperor Hirohito's death, producers of "CBS This Morning" wanted to do a segment in-

side a Pachinko parlor, a Japanese gambling casino. IFB was needed to cue the talent, but there was no way to run cables in the crowded public casino. Microwave and walkie-talkies were impossible through the shiny metal building.

"We use planes, overland trucks, and once, in a Boston snowstorm, we hired a man with a snowmobile."

Frank Governale, CBS director of operations for special events, spotted a pay phone inside the parlor. An all-city cue system was brought into the side doorway next to the public phone, and the receiver side of the telephone was connected to the input of the cue system. A call was made to the phone on an IFB circuit from the CBS control room. The talent, outfitted with wireless receivers tuned to the frequency of the all-city cue, received audio that fed out of the phone into the transmitter and onto their wireless receivers. The segment, which was used to close the show, went live and turned out even better than expected.

In 1985, after ferreting out a small local vendor, CBS News pushed forward the development of INMARSAT phones for broadcast use. The phones arrived just before the coverage of the Mexican earthquake, giving CBS one of the only long-distance phones out of the entire area.

After enough bad experiences in foreign places with limited phone service, CBS News added a digital phone system to its host of modules. The system data compresses and multiplexes several telephones, 2-way data and 4-wire circuits into one T1 slot of 56kb or 64kb.

This system was first used during the coverage in Japan of Emperor Hirohito's funeral, one of the largest CBS remotes to date. During its two weeks in Japan, CBS broadcast approximately 40 hours for "CBS This Morning," "CBS Evening News," "Sunday Morning," "Special Events" and weekend news. Paterson attributes much of the success to the support by TBS (Tokyo Broadcasting System), which is affiliated with CBS in Japan. TBS provided space, technical assistance and extra personnel.

"For the first time, we had plenty of room," Paterson said. This was seconded by Lee who explained, "Eighty percent of the remotes we do are out of hotel rooms. We take all the furniture out, hang things out the window, run cables down the hall-

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ways. The hotel manager has a heart attack."

Remote production, whether in the United States or abroad, presents problems, but Paterson explains the difference between the two. "You have to ship no matter where you go, but within the U.S., you can just get a plane, charter or commercial, for your people and equipment. No customs, no brokers. Securing hotels and work space is easier because, above all, you share a common language.

"Working with different cultures can be a logistics nightmare," he said. They have different methods of operation, different terminology, different formalities. You

must be careful not to offend others, but you need to get on the air and that sense of urgency often is not shared by others."

Quick wits, a questioning mind and resourcefulness are key requirements for people working on remotes. For example, when Bob McKinley, director of operations for CBS Newsnet (the group that supplies technical services to CBS affiliates at large news remotes), went to Washington on a survey for the presidential inauguration coverage, his compass readings indicated direct access to the GStar2 satellite from Second Avenue. By checking a map, however, he discovered a 30° error. Investiga-

Continued on page 36



The CBS uplink in Cyprus during the remote team's 3-week coverage of the TWA hijack situation. Tapes were shot in Lebanon and flown to field headquarters in Cyprus for editing and transmission.



Wayne Wright, RF supervisor, oversees all portable microwave equipment. Here, he checks cable at the TWA hijack site in Cyprus.

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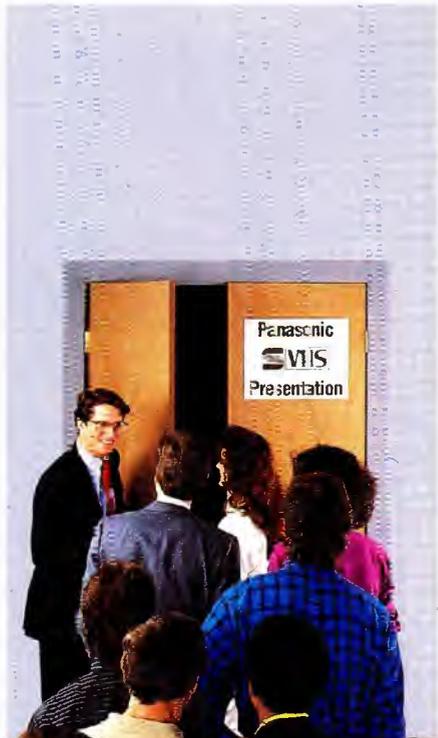
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A hotel room in Cuba is transformed into a makeshift control room.

Continued from page 32

tion revealed his compass had been deflected by a lighting grid that was part of a street underneath Second Avenue that he didn't even know existed.

On-site planning

Each event is unique, and each has its particular problems. The more notice there is, the more planning the remote team can do, including making survey trips. But, sometimes the only notice the team gets is that it's going.

"I was at a funeral in Florida when I was told we were covering the impromptu Reagan-Gorbachev summit in Iceland," Paterson said. "The next day we put together the equipment and people we thought we'd need. That night we left, knowing we had unilateral and pool coverage. It was hectic, but it was the most interesting remote I've done."



The CBS News control center for the Reagan-Gorbachev summit meeting in Iceland. The crew set up in Iceland University's Student Union building.

"Eighty percent of the remotes we do are out of hotel rooms. We take all the furniture out, hang things out the window, run cables down the hallways."

The survey, which normally would be completed weeks ahead, was done upon arrival. An airport hangar was set up for pool. Inside, local builders quickly erected modular housing for each of the networks. CBS News, wanting separate facilities for its unilateral coverage, secured Iceland University's Student Union building after taking part in peace treaty-type negotiations with the students. The drawing card was that the building had five international direct phone lines, which were later multiplexed to 25 lines.

A local greenhouse was purchased and reassembled on the Student Union roof as an anchor booth. Its output fed down to the main production center containing six edit booths, a full control room and remote-control rooms. (The network later sold the greenhouse back to the vendor, recouping half the purchase price.) Two uplinks, repeaters (placed on the roof of a downtown hospital) and 11 portable

microwave systems were used. A ferryboat was leased to house most of the crew.

Disappointingly few official statements



Jim Paterson (standing), general manager of the CBS News Division Operations Group, in the New York control room, where remote feeds are inserted into the network's news programs.

or interviews were given during the course of the summit. Then, the day it ended, Reagan announced that he would address the armed services personnel and their dependents in his airplane's hangar. Paterson recalls the scramble.

"We had no equipment at the hangar and very little equipment not in use," he said. "We managed to get an industrial-type 6x1 switcher, three cameras that we gen-locked together, plus some rooftop microwave equipment. The wind, gusting 50mph to 60mph, was overriding the clamps on the antenna we placed on the control tower. Wayne Wright had to climb halfway onto the roof and keep the antenna pointed toward the hospital repeater site. The viewers never knew the problems."

Even when a foreign remote is done under seemingly ideal conditions, such as in Japan — where there was a helpful host broadcaster, plenty of room, similar power and an abundance of it — the task is riddled with problems, apparent dead ends and fatigue. But imagine the overwhelming challenge of landing, dog tired, with a cargo plane full of equipment in a place you've never been, with a different power standard, a foreign language and no place to set up. Try to conceive of having to broadcast live from a site with only a few odd pieces of spare equipment available.

Don DeCesare, vice president of CBS News, summed up the special way the remote team approaches its work. "We are pushing the limits of what modern broadcast technology can do," he said. "And, as we push it, we redefine it, and then we push it again."

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Making the most of remotes

By Rick Lehtinen, TV technical editor

With good planning and communications, any remote can be world-class.

Two keys to successful remote programming are planning, to eliminate the need for last-minute instructions, and good communications, to efficiently deliver last-minute instructions. In remotes, as in battle, planning is critical, but plans often fall apart. Things go wrong; opportunities arise. In any activity that concerns people, we must be prepared for the unexpected.

Before crews can deal with changes, they have to find out about them. We've all seen the classic blunders — talent "tossing" to the wrong personalities, announcing events that aren't going to happen, speaking when they shouldn't or being mum when they are needed. All of these can be avoided by good communications.

Cellular phones increase flexibility

Now that cellular phones are commonplace, broadcasters are finding ways to integrate them into their mix of production equipment. In most major markets, cellular phones might be used for transferring data and faxes from the control room to the field, or for just ordering lunch.

Where there are phones, there are antennas. After you consider how much equipment must be mounted in a vehicle to make it ready for newsgathering, where to mount a cellular antenna pales in comparison. Still, many stations probably would prefer a window- or glass-mounted antenna to one that mounts on a vehicle's exterior. With such antennas, it is not necessary to cut holes, which speeds up installation and possibly improves the vehicle's resale value.

Looking through the glass

Most glass-mount antennas are various forms of vertical elements, including $1/2$ -wave-over- $1/2$ -wave and $1/4$ -wave-over- $5/8$ -wave colinear arrays. They are shaped like a pigtail. The curl in the middle is a phasing coil (not a loading coil), which con-

nects the two straight elements and keeps the radio energy in phase between them.

Although popular, glass-mount antennas have at least two disadvantages. First is the glass feedthrough. A coupler on the inside of the window excites current in the outside-mounted antenna. This may incur a 3dB penalty. Second, security, aesthetics or climate might make it undesirable to have the radiating part of the antenna located outside. In certain investigative journalism situations, communications are vital, but visible antennas are ill-advised.

No outsiders

Antennas disguised as standard whips for car radios have been available for some time. Now, there are two other types of antennas that work from inside the vehicle. They are the serpentine array and the directional discontinuity ring radiator (DDRR).

• Serpentine array

This antenna comes as a decal that adheres to the windshield. The serpentine array antenna, developed by Antennas America, Arvada, CO, is a $3'' \times 3''$ piece of polyester film. Inside the film, the manufacturer embeds 15 inches of 1.5mm by 50mm copper strip, which forms a series-fed, zig-zag pattern, log periodic antenna. The strip contains 12 $1/2$ -wave elements that resonate at frequencies from 800MHz to 925MHz. The window-facing surface of the sticker bears a burglar alarm warning label.

The antenna connects with the cellular transmitter by a coax terminating in a special 3-pronged connector. The manufacturer claims the decal antenna has performance equivalent to or better than several current glass-mount antennas.

• DDRR antenna

Com-Rad Industries, Grand Island, NY, has brought its DDRR antenna to the 800MHz band for cellular telephone and

Continued on page 42

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Continued from page 38
 2-way radio applications. Previously introduced models cover VHF and UHF bands. The DDRR looks like something that

might be found in a washing machine. Mounting the antenna inside the rear window avoids the need to cut holes, but it can be exterior-mounted if desired. Ac-

ording to the manufacturer, the antenna may be mounted on upper vehicle body surfaces or concealed underneath the chassis.

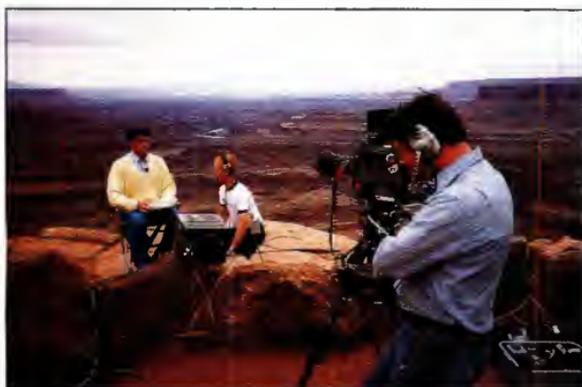
The manufacturer claims that the high Q of the DDRR antenna improves receive audio performance by eliminating much interference from paging systems or trunked radio systems.

Do they work?

Some cellular antennas are thoroughly tested on calibrated antenna test ranges. The tests compare their emission patterns and gain figures, among other characteristics, to standard references. The use of standard references makes tests repeatable and reliable, and their results credible.

For example, original AT&T Bell Laboratories advanced mobile phone service (AMPS) specifications for cellular mobile antennas specify 3dB gain compared to a reference 1/2-wave dipole. Nevertheless, you will find some cellular mobile antenna gain figures are compared to 1/4-wave ground planes, isotropic sources or the competition. In most cases, you have to ask to learn what reference was used.

Many manufacturers, including those who make serpentine array and DDRR antennas, have not yet completed full-scale,



Live remote broadcasts can originate from almost anywhere. This program originated at Dead Horse Point, which overlooks the Grand Canyon. (Photo courtesy of KSL-TV)

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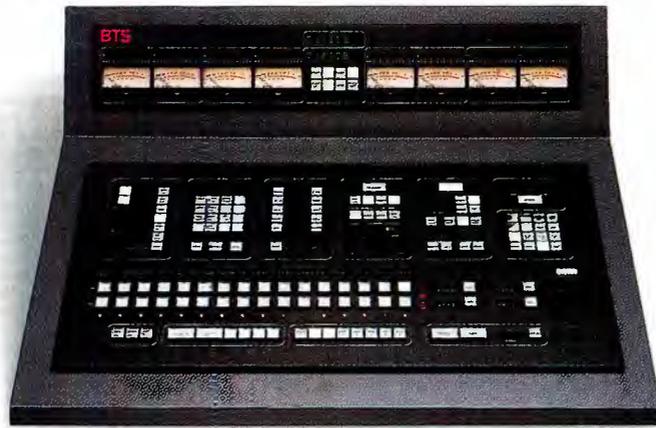
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BTA-2300 Automation System

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The computer system is not only powerful, it's extremely flexible, allowing you to revise the program on a moment's notice. And there's no more reliable automation system available. Both products go through 100% computerized factory testing and have a 5-year warranty.

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BTS
The name behind
what's ahead.

scientific tests with a standard reference antenna. Instead, they currently rely on informal measurements, casual observation, testimonials and comparisons with competitors' antennas. There is nothing wrong with the "if it works, use it" approach to antenna selection, but broadcasters would do well to consider the nature of tests upon which performance claims are based.

Wider audio

Unfortunately, the cellular phone has been designed to be a wireless equivalent of the standard dial-up phone. As broadcasters know, bandwidth-limited telephone audio is not always a joy to behold. One solution to this is frequency extension. Successful in radio remotes, frequency extenders work by electronically shifting out-of-band frequencies into the telephone equipment's audio passband.

A frequency-extension system has been developed for use with cellular phones. This provides an easy way for broadcasters to get program-quality audio from wherever their phones roam. These units are available in configurations that provide either duplex operation for Q&A situations, or simplex, when extended frequency is required on a simple 1-way program feed.

Cellular frequency extenders are easiest installed on phones that have an external RJ11 modular jack. The same is used when connecting a cellular phone to a fax machine. Alternatively, the equipment can enter the circuit by connection to the 8-pin headset connector.

At the decoding end, cellular frequen-

cy extenders are available that provide auto-answer circuitry, auto-AGC and relay closures, which can remotely start cart machines to record incoming programming unattended.

Untie your talent

Even the best audio from the field is not

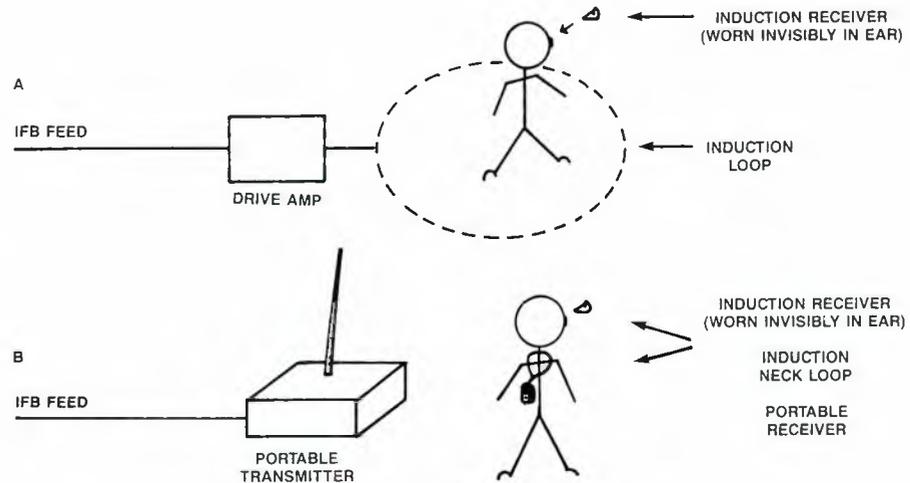


Figure 1. Two IFB systems that use an induction earpiece. a) uses floor-mounted induction loop. b) uses personal radio transmitter and receiver.



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The IVT-9PLUS is a wide band (5.5MHz) digital time base corrector with a full frame memory. It corrects and transcodes virtually every format there is: BETACAM, MII, U-matic/S-VHS/VHS Dub, S-VHS and NTSC.

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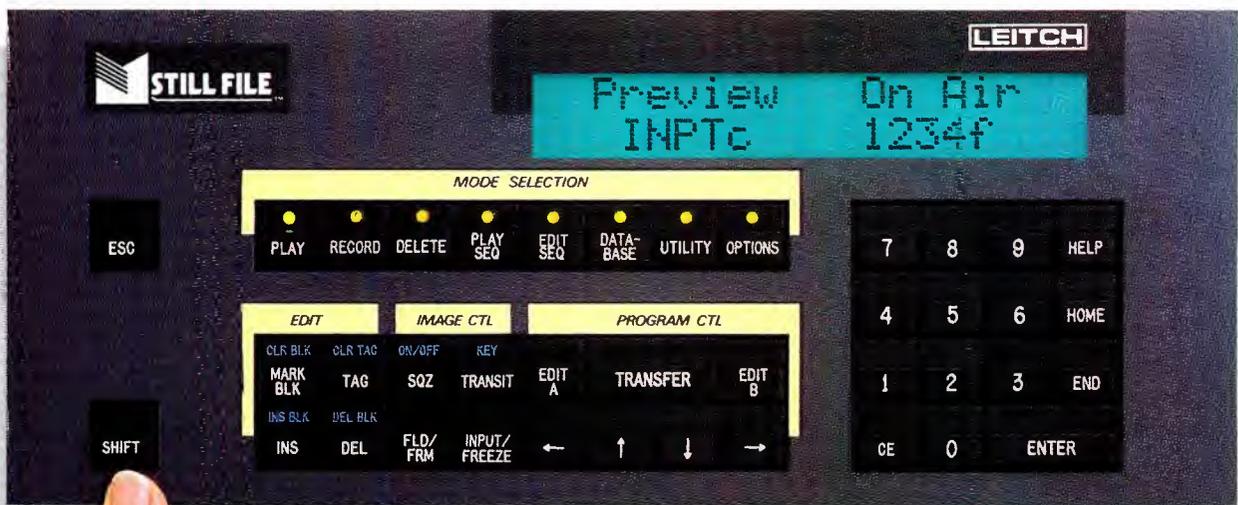
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of much use if there is no way to cue the talent. Several recent advances in the field of interruptible foldback (IFB) promise to increase the efficiency of remote production. Among them are wireless IFB systems that use tiny, induction-type earpieces that require no external wires to the ear. (See Figure 1.)

In these systems, the minuscule earpiece, invisible to the camera, is inserted in the talent's ear. The induction earpiece is excited by an induction loop, usually worn about the talent's neck under the shirt or blouse, or on the back. Alternatively, an induction loop can be taped under the anchor desk or laid out on the ground in the area over which the talent will stand.

The IFB signal feeds the induction loop. In the case of body-worn induction loops, the IFB can come from a wireless source, such as a wireless microphone receiver. Combined with a wireless microphone, the system can have a comfortable, wire-free talent, with increased production flexibility, because changing a talent's position is reduced to moving the chair and adjusting the lighting. (Editor's note: Engineers concerned about having too many wireless microphones in the same area should read the "Strictly TV" column in this issue.)

Aural prompting

Where there is talent, there often is a need for cue cards and prompting devices. Even with these aids, it can require several takes to get material satisfactorily on tape. Aural prompting can sometimes be used to speed the production process.

Using a system called Ear-Talk, Bates City, MO, talent can dictate pre-scripted standups, introductions and voice-over commercials and then play them back to themselves as they repeat their words. (See Figure 2.) In addition to reducing the hardware and personnel requirements of a remote broadcast by reducing the need for cue cards and prompters, ear-prompting systems reduce retakes. Material can be consistent from take to take, both in quality and timing.

At first glance it may seem as if the talent will face similar problems to those experienced when they hear themselves with a satellite delay. The subtle distinction is that with an aural prompting system, the talent are following their voices, not leading them. What is heard thus becomes a pattern for what is spoken, not a distraction. Should they get too far behind the tape, talent can click the hidden pause switch and catch up.

World-class remotes

Good communication will do much to improve the quality of any remote situation. Talent can react better to sudden changes if they can clearly and comfortably

be apprised of those changes. But what about world-class productions, in which there is plenty of time to check and double-check communications and production systems? Is there any secret to pulling off a truly magnificent shoot?

One common thread running throughout many major remotes is careful, painstaking planning.

Plan and plan some more

Although the 1989 Wimbledon tennis tournament was played in late June, HBO planners had produced a detailed timetable of events, charting who and what were to be where, and distributed it on May 1. Production work and graphics began in May. Five days were allocated for the creation of new graphics, followed by initial editing work on teases and animations in early June. Just as the material was being converted from 525 to 625 lines for use in PAL, early crews arrived in England to receive incoming equipment shipments and to begin a 2-week period of set construction.

By mid-June, crews were in place shooting London feature shots. By June 20, the on-site graphics area at Wimbledon had been set up and the production staff and announcers were on their way. Two days later, production meetings were under way to finalize arrangements. During this time, and for several days thereafter, time was spent rehearsing, checking out equipment setups and programming character generators and still-stores.

Coverage began on Monday, June 26, and continued for nine days. During each production day, features were shot and edited, graphics were prepared, production meetings were held and teases were taped. At 2 p.m. full match taping began and continued until the match's conclu-

sion. By 3:30, editing for the highlight packages was already under way.

Transmission of the day's matches began each evening at 7 p.m. During the feed, the crews taped teases and programmed the character generator for the following day's action. The highlight show and next day's teases were taped and fed at the conclusion of the match.

When it was time to go home, crews first began removing unobtrusive equipment. The internal strike began on Friday, July 7, with the full strike on July 10. During all construction and strike operations, club officials had strict rules concerning what hours noisy operations were allowed.

Master's touch

Whether it's a world-class tennis match, jazz event or a live report from the cow palace on the state fair grounds, planning and communicating what is planned are two keys toward improving the quality of productions. Good production teams can approach production in a world-class manner, whether the stage is around the world or right next door.

ABC goes golfing with NOMAD

By Kenneth J. Michel

The tournament's final round is drawing to a close. The leader approaches his ball on the 17th tee. He sets, swings and, with a resounding crack, launches the ball down the fairway. Four cameras are strategically positioned to cover this important hole. One of the high cameras follows the ball through the sky. As the ball descends, it heads out of bounds. It lands out of sight, among the crowd, under a group of trees.

A utility cart stops at the edge of the fairway. While the driver aims some antennas at a tethered balloon hovering over the course, the camera operator plays out the triax and gets in position for the next shot.

This scenario is not uncommon when covering a professional golf tournament. Sports producers often use RF cameras in situations where fixed cameras cannot cover all of the angles, especially in cases where the action of play is unpredictable or where roving cameras are required.

Michel is new technology development engineer for ABC, New York.

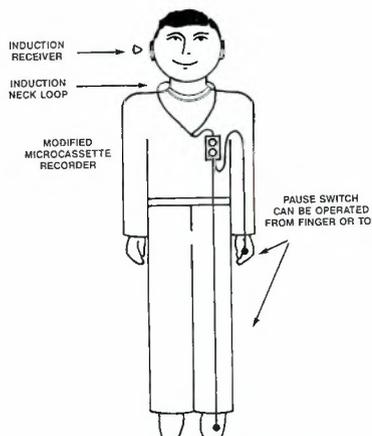


Figure 2. Aural prompting system uses invisible induction receiver with neck loop and modified microcassette recorder.

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Cablewave Systems

RF camera systems have evolved over the years from simply taking the video and audio output from a camera and feeding it into a portable microwave transmitter, to complex, remote-controlled, synchronized systems, which closely emulate hard-wired cameras. Complex RF camera systems can provide camera-control functions, gen-lock, tally and bidirectional communications, using radio signal paths in place of

cables.

ABC Sports required such a system for golf. We wanted to have at least three cameras that could be efficiently set up, provide reliable coverage of the entire course, and maintain all of the features of the cabled cameras, including the ability to gen-lock the camera feeds without using frame synchronizers. ABC's RF operations and broadcast engineering departments set out to design a system

that would meet Sport's requirements and would do so using a limited number of radio channels to conserve spectrum.

Once the requirements and operational system philosophy were identified, ABC's operations and engineering departments, with the aid of two outside companies, Telemetrics of New Jersey and MITEQ of New York, developed a unique camera command and multiplexing system that fulfilled all the operational requirements.

The major components of the system are as follows:

1. A 40-foot mobile unit to accommodate video and audio sub-control rooms, maintenance and utility areas.
2. Ikegami HL-95 cameras with custom Telemetrics triax adapters and base stations.
3. MACOM microwave transmitters and RF technology receivers.
4. Microwave transceiver and 950MHz transmitter. These components and additional electronics are housed in a weatherproof tube assembly, which, for lack of a better term, is called NOMAD. (Actually, it is named for its physical resemblance to a character in an old *Star Trek* episode).
5. Balloon, with a payload capacity of 150 pounds, or camera crane to suspend NOMAD over the golf course.
6. Telemetrics multi-triax ground station.
7. Utility golf cart.

How it all works

The system supports three fully commanded camera chains. The video and two audio channels, effects, mic and camera talk originate from the hand-held camera that is coupled to a custom-made triax adapter. The signals are multiplexed on triax and connected to the base station, which is housed in a protective rack on a utility golf cart.

The golf cart provides mobility and houses the microwave gear, power supplies, inverters and transmit and receive antennas. The video and audio are demodulated at the base station and fed to the microwave transmitter. Output power is kept to approximately 3W. The microwave transmit antenna and the 950MHz receive antenna are mounted on a pan-and-tilt head. This enables the driver to aim the antennas at a blimp-like balloon (or crane) positioned between 200 and 500 feet over the course. (FAA regulations limit the height above average terrain to 500 feet).

Once a good line-of-sight position is established, the antennas are aligned and a bidirectional radio path is established. Line of sight with the balloon is necessary because of the directional characteristics of the microwave signal. The 950MHz signal is less directional so that camera data and audio contacts are usually maintained even when the cart is moving.

Continued on page 94



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All Gentner extenders include filtering to reduce hum, built-in noise reduction and special processing of the high frequencies. Best yet, Gentner extenders are full duplex devices allowing true two-way communication. You get

cues back to the broadcast site without compromising the effectiveness of your remote system or juggling unnecessary hardware.

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That's right, we said broadcast quality. The newest addition to our growing line of frequency extenders, the EFT-3000, gives you enviable frequency response of 50 Hz to 7.5 kHz over three standard (dial up) telephone lines. The EFT-3000 is broadcasting's first and only three-line digital frequency extender. And, it's a breeze to operate. Just plug in the phone lines and speed dial the station from the DTMF pad on the front panel. Then punch the Auto-Setup button. The EFT-3000 tweaks all three lines and you're on the air. You even get inputs for two mics and two headsets so you can do two person remotes without all the extra gear.



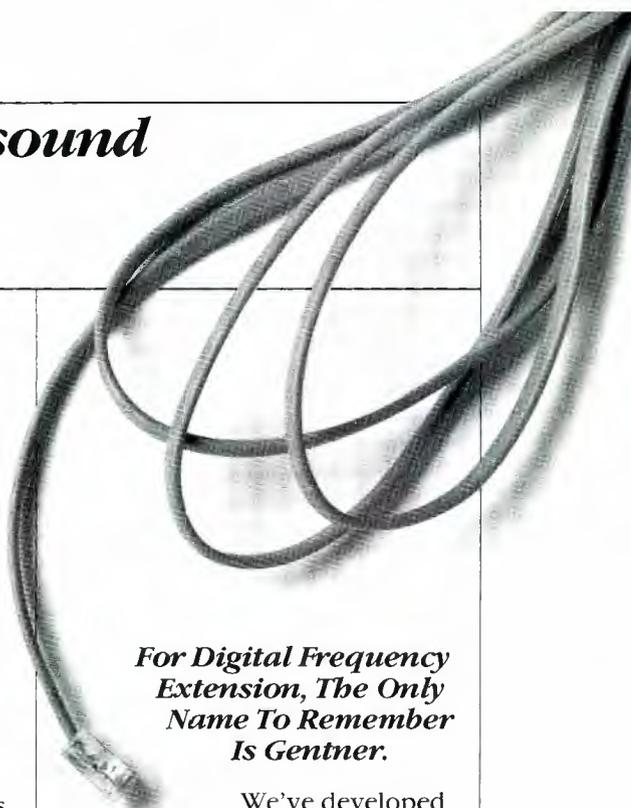
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Broadcasters respond to the quake

By Peter Hammar

As the world watched, broadcasters of the San Francisco Bay Area struggled to tell the unfolding story of the earthquake. Their experiences provide valuable lessons for all broadcasters.

When the earthquake struck the San Francisco Bay Area on Oct. 17, 1989, not a single broadcaster there was sufficiently prepared to cope with the emergency. Disasters, whether natural or man-made, hit radio and TV stations hard. Being able to keep damaged equipment running with little electric power and a staff under high stress means taking precautions and spending money now for the disaster that "probably won't happen."

Californians are not the only Americans threatened by earthquakes. Large temblors have been reported all over the continent in the past 200 years. Geologists estimate that the three great New Madrid, MO, quakes during the winter of 1811-12, the most violent in U.S. history, each measured from 8.4 to 8.7 on the Richter scale! All three quakes were many times greater than the 1989 San Francisco quake, devastating parts of Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky and Mississippi, with minor damage as far away as Ohio and the Carolinas. The Mississippi River reportedly ran backward after each of the New Madrid earthquakes, with massive flooding around what is now St. Louis.

According to geologists, monster quakes occur in cycles of 100 to 500 years. The famous one that devastated San Francisco in 1906 measured 8.3 on the Richter scale. The 7.1 quake that hit the Bay Area in October was not "the big one." Geologists say that one is still to come, and it could hit at any time — in a few minutes or 100 years from now.

The lessons learned in the Bay Area apply not only to earthquakes, but to other situations as well. Any event can "take

down" a station with equipment damage and loss of electric power, as we've seen from the recent hurricane and tornadoes in the southern United States. Industrial explosions and civil unrest also can threaten broadcast operations.

When the earthquake — the second largest temblor in California this century — struck the Bay Area at 5:04 p.m. that October day, most stations not physically damaged by the impact stayed on the air. However, at 5:05 p.m. the Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) grid went down. For a minute, the crowded Bay Area radio spectrum was completely dead. Circuit breakers on the grid had responded to overloading, with other shutdowns automatically triggered by earthquake sensors. PG&E then kept power off in most of San Francisco according to a pre-arranged earthquake plan, leaving a million customers in the dark. Most of those affected, including broadcasters, agreed that the lethal combination of broken gas mains and sparking power lines warranted the shutdown.

The physical damage and power outages tested the engineering skills and emergency preparedness of Bay Area broadcasters, as well as the Emergency Broadcast System, or EBS. Here are some basic measures you can take to prepare your station for any disaster.

1. Get your plant inspected now, not later.

Have independent consultants inspect towers, buildings and their foundations and deep-ground support for structural integrity. It's expensive, but this is a one-time cost that should be done now, not when you're staring at a mass of twisted steel, with your station's revenue losses piling up. Of course, some natural disasters will cause damage that no amount of inspec-

Hammar, chairman of the San Francisco section of the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers, is a broadcast consultant.



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tion or planning can prevent.

The ABC-owned radio station, KGO-AM in San Francisco, and ABC affiliate KNTV-TV, channel 11 in San Jose, suffered major tower damage from the earthquake. Two of KGO's three 304-foot directional towers buckled over at mid-span. The third tower was left standing, but bent and out of plumb. According to chief engineer Bruce Schirmer, although KGO's AM transmitter sits on the muddy flats in the South Bay near the Dumbarton Bridge, the bases of the three towers are anchored in bedrock 60 feet below the bay mud. The quake's whipping action snapped the two non-directional towers in the middle like toothpicks. On the ground, everything moved in unison, so the transmitter building and its equipment came through undamaged.

Built in 1947, KGO's self-supporting towers are only 17 feet across at the base. The three replacement towers will have a wider, more solid design. Despite the damage, KGO radio was back on the air within an hour. When the towers fell, the 50kW transmitter could not handle the change in load and automatically shut down. No one was at the transmitter site at the time of the quake, but a KGO engineer who lives in the East Bay area quickly reached the site and patched everything over to the remaining directional tower. After just a few minutes, he had returned KGO to the air in a non-directional pattern at about 10kW effective radiated power, increased the next day to 22kW.

After a bigger transmission line to the tower was installed, power was later brought up to 50kW daytime, reduced to 10kW at night to protect WGY-AM in Schenectady, NY. The FCC has given KGO a waiver to continue operating with a 24-hour non-directional pattern until the three new towers are installed early this year.

KNTV also may have to replace its tower as a result of the quake. The 290-foot tower, on Loma Prieta Mountain west of San Jose, is located about five miles north of the quake's epicenter. Similar to what occurred at KGO, the north-south whipping action of the quake partially snapped the structure, but this time just below the top, in the middle of the 12-bay batwing array. The broken part of the guyed tower bent in the direction of San Jose, the biggest part of KNTV's South Bay market, actually strengthening the signal there slightly. The transmission line to the tower also cracked and was patched temporarily. The entire antenna and transmission lines may be replaced in the spring.

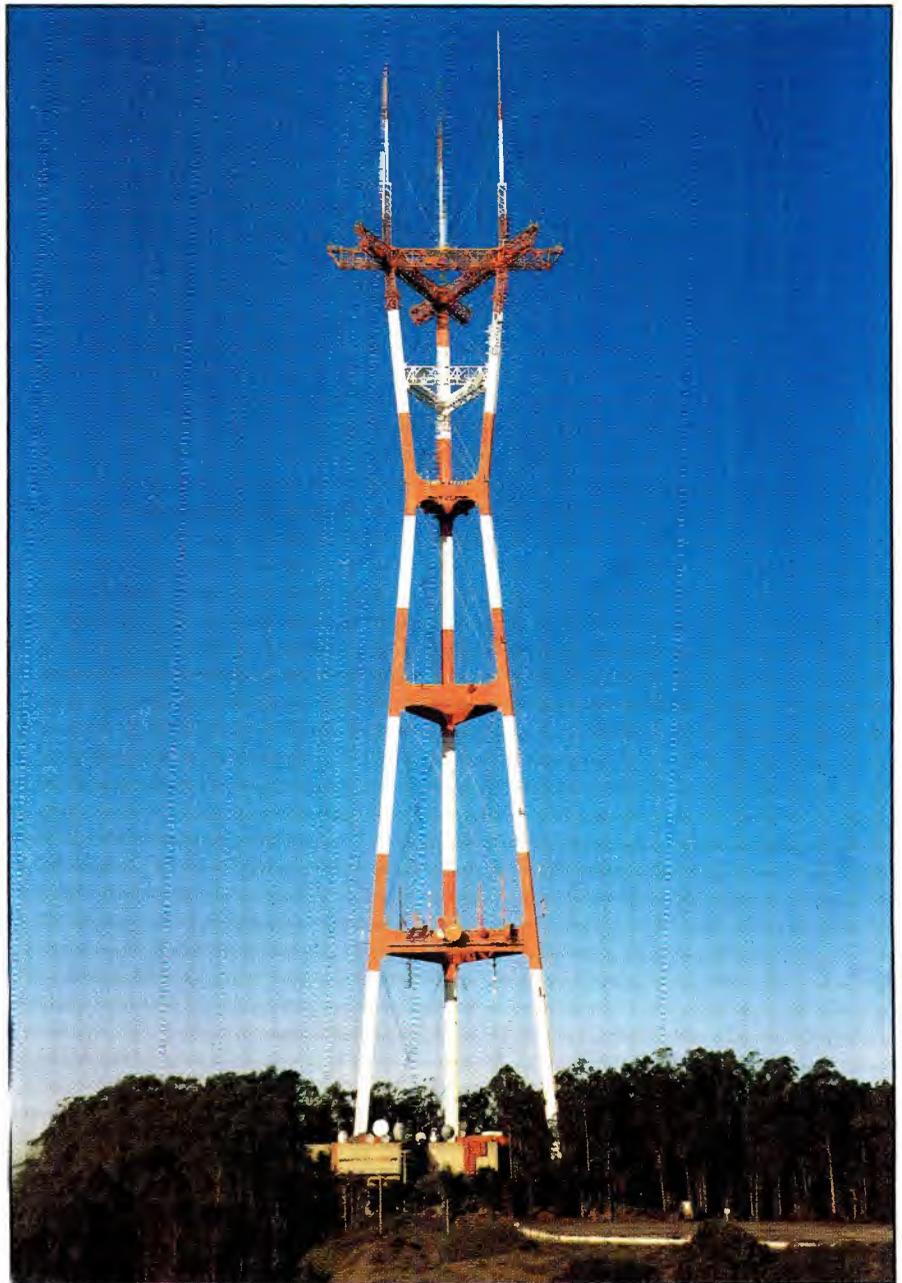
In contrast, the transmitter for NBC affiliate KSBW-TV, channel 8, is only six miles south of the quake's epicenter, about 10 miles from the wrecked KNTV tower. Chief engineer Willis Wells reported that the station's 1,500-foot tower was un-

touched. The NBC affiliate in Salinas was back on the air within 90 seconds of the quake. The Kline tower, built in 1984, was designed to withstand an 8.3 earthquake with a simultaneous 100mph wind blowing on it.

The studios of Oakland's independent KTVU-TV, channel 2, are located only a little more than a mile from the ill-fated Cypress I-880 structure, the collapse of which caused the greatest number of casualties. However, KTVU's bayside building, equipment and rooftop STLs came through untouched. The 1981 purpose-built structure sits on pilings anchored in

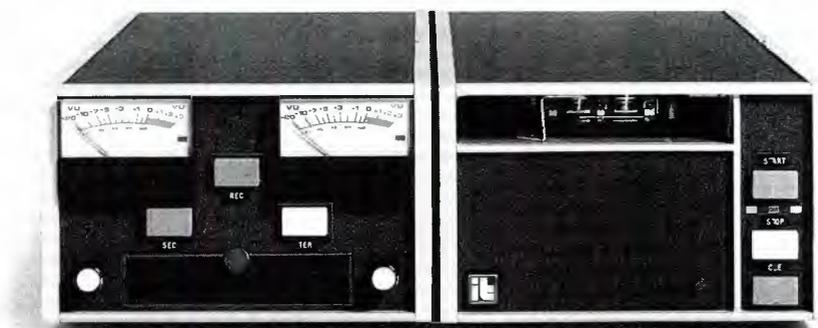
bedrock and was unaffected by the violent shaking of the surrounding bay mud flats.

Don Lincoln, director of engineering for Sutro Tower, reported there was no damage to the 3-legged, self-supporting tower on Mount Sutro in central San Francisco, the transmitter site for 10 TV and four FM radio stations. The structure, rated to withstand a quake of at least 8.3 on the Richter scale, came through perfectly, as did all the arrays, transmission lines and the transmitter building. The site is located on stable bedrock, and the center of gravity of the 977-foot tower is actually 13 feet



The shared transmission facility on Mount Sutro in the middle of San Francisco came through the earthquake in perfect shape. Built on bedrock, the 977-foot tower and its arrays are designed to withstand a quake measuring at least 8.3 on the Richter scale. During the quake, the tower moved, but stayed well within its design parameters. (Photo by Don Lincoln, Sutro Tower.)

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below ground, adding to the stability of the design. During the quake, the tower moved noticeably, but well within its design parameters.

2. Check the ruggedness and reliability of your STLs.

In almost all cases, STL dishes stayed physically aligned on both ends. Loss of power to remote STLs was more of a problem. Susquehanna's KNBR-AM in San Francisco lost power to its STL on the roof of the Fox Plaza building two hours after the quake when the backup batteries ran out, reported KNBR/KFOG-FM engineering manager Bill Ruck. The station reverted to landlines for its transmitter link.

The studios of Capital Cities/AEC's KGO-AM and KGO-TV, channel 7, in San Francisco suffered no real damage. The station uses telco fiber-optic lines for its STLs, which, to the engineers' surprise, remained trouble-free throughout the disaster. The video fiber link from Candlestick Park used by ABC Sports immediately failed, however, and was abandoned when it became clear that coverage from the park would cease. KGO-TV has had problems in the past with its telco fiber STL and is considering replacing the underground link with its own microwave

STL, perhaps with the fiber connection as a backup.

3. Secure those equipment racks.

Most stations in the quake area lost at least some equipment or air time when racks and cabinets fell over or even tore loose from the floor. At the KNTV transmitter building in the mountains above San Jose, almost every cabinet and rack was knocked over or tipped, according to chief engineer Dick Swank.

Prevented from falling over only by its RF, video and power cables, the microwave equipment continued to function. The quake ripped the heavy transmitter filterplexer loose, even though the unit was bolted to the floor. At this station, as at several others, lack of top-bracing caused the filterplexer and other cabinets bolted to the floor to whip back and forth, finally tearing loose from their bottom moorings and tipping over. Despite the problems with both tower and transmission equipment, the KNTV crew returned the station to the air less than two hours after the quake struck.

To hold your equipment steady in the worst quake, secure racks and cabinets by heavy angle iron across their tops, in addition to bolting equipment racks to the

floor. The angle iron should be bolted to load-bearing members along the walls. Of course, racks that are unsecured in any way are especially vulnerable. Like seatbelts in your car, support bracing makes the equipment move with the building, not "oscillate" out of phase. Anchoring racks looks simpler than it is. Consider hiring a reputable structural engineer to do the job right.

4. Get a big generator.

No one wants to spend tens of thousands of dollars on a 150kW or 500kW generator that may never be used. According to KNBR's Bill Ruck, 90% of all PG&E power failures last less than 30 minutes. Approximately 99% last less than an hour. "It's that last 1% that will drive you nuts," Ruck said.

In big cities, generators and their fuel tanks create zoning problems. Yet, a big, automatic-start generator already wired into the system is like the parachute that the jet pilot probably will never open: It's nice to know it's there. Of course, there are practical limits to how much of your shop you can run on a generator. Assistant chief engineer Roy Trumbull of KRON-TV, channel 4, the NBC affiliate in

Continued on page 58

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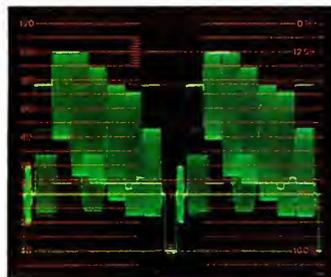
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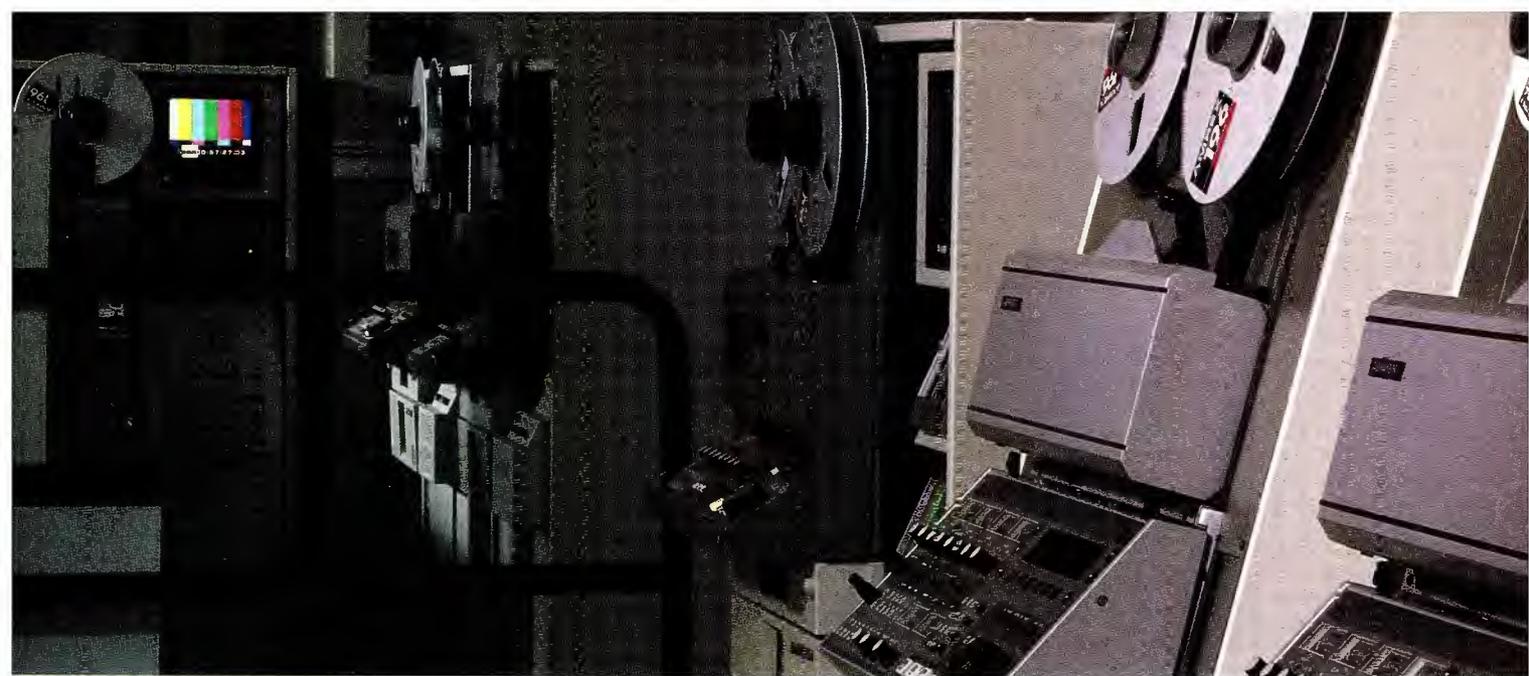
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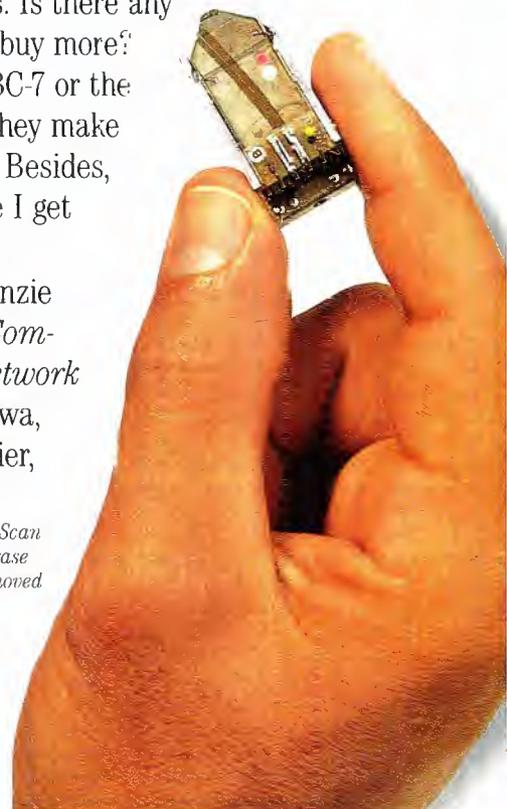
"With the introduction of D2, why did you purchase Type C?"

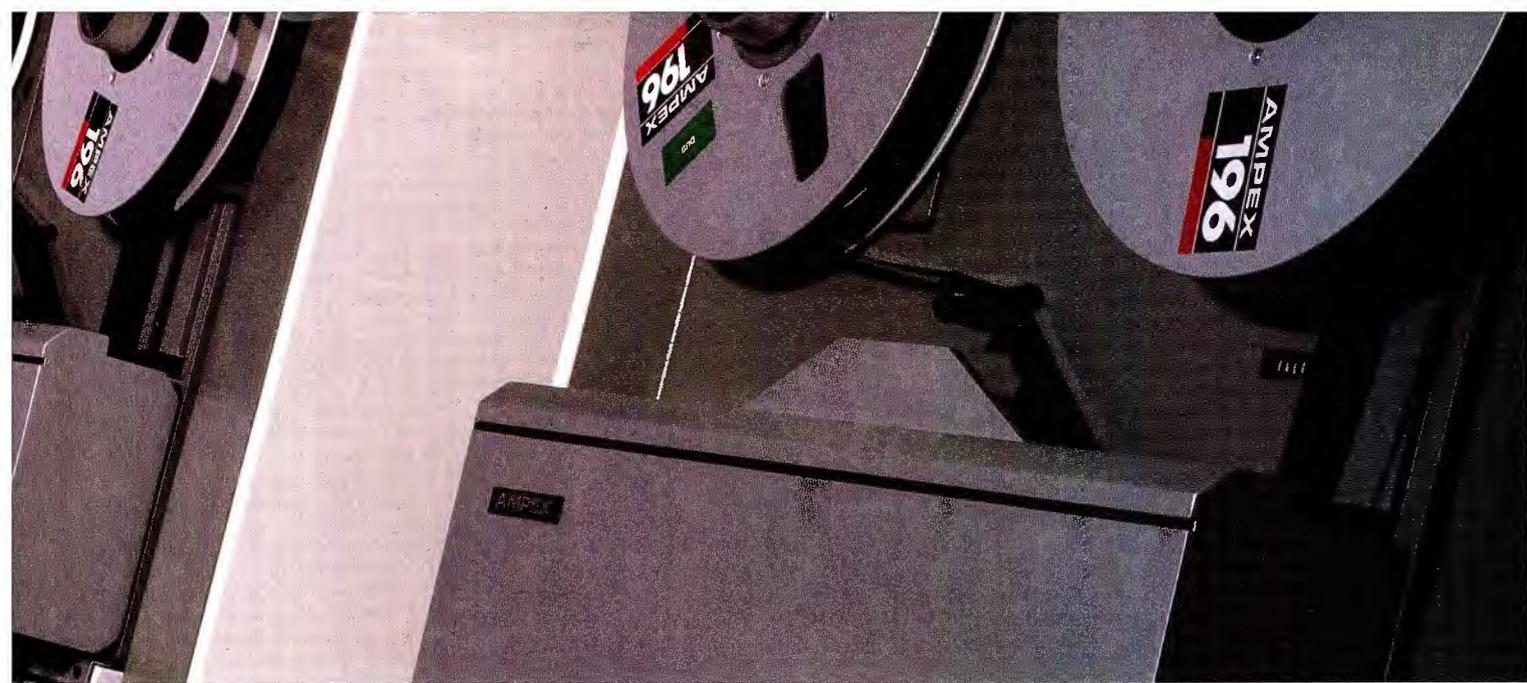
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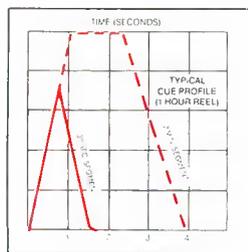
Jerry McKinzie with *Cycle-Sat Communications Network* in Forest City, Iowa, (a satellite courier,

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production, and post-production business), thinks it's important to be able to update easily as his business changes. "The hardware and software upgrades Ampex makes in their equipment allow me to keep my facility current, and to always give my customers the newest look. I like that, and my customers demand it."



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VPR-3s, pointed out that the Zeus port allows interface with D2. Darrell believes that, "Type C and D2 will co-exist successfully in a well-managed

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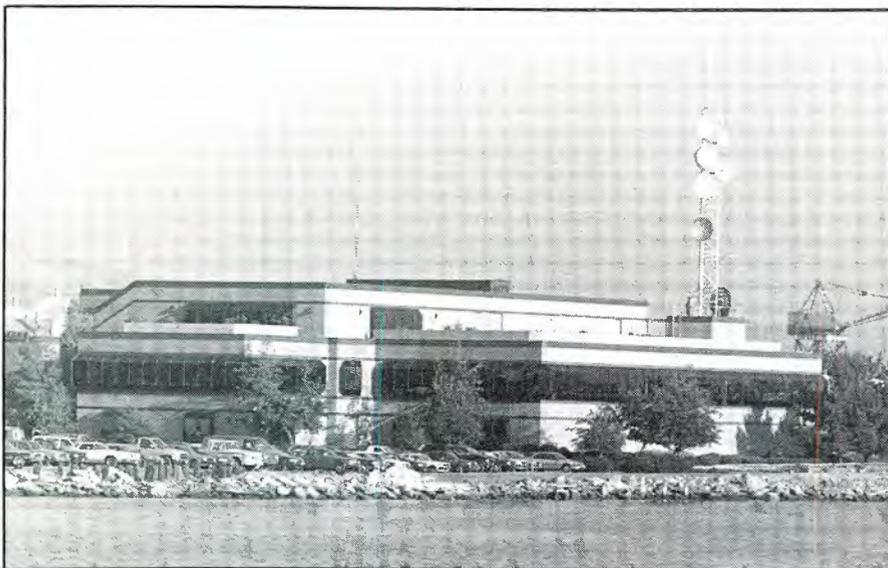


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KTVU-TV, Oakland, is located just a mile from the ill-fated Cypress I-880 structure, whose collapse claimed so many lives. Unlike the highway, the TV studios are built on pilings that go down to bedrock. During the quake, the building held perfectly, with the surrounding bay fill moving around the station like sea water around an oil rig in the ocean. (Photo by Sterling Davis, KTVU-TV)

Continued from page 54

San Francisco, estimates that to simulate 3-phase, 4,000A, 208V PG&E power for his entire operation, he would need a 1.4MW generator, which is neither practical nor desirable. Between 150kW and 500kW with a carefully segregated load is enough to provide cost-effective emergency power.

Because KRON has lost power only once, for a short time, in the past 10 years and enjoys a good position at a major junction in the PG&E grid, station management did not see a need for a large backup generator for the facility. (Since the quake, management has hired a consultant to determine cost and zoning requirements for a full-sized emergency generator set and rewiring of house power.)

KRON's transmitter on Mount Sutro is already fully generator-supported and was off the air for only a few seconds. The station had power problems downtown, but only minor quake damage. When power in the studio went off, the staff used a small generator plus an ENG truck parked outside to power a couple of racks of equipment in the station, including the STL microwave and the remote control for the transmitter.

The shared transmitter site on Mount Sutro is fed by two PG&E feeds. Both feeds have been lost simultaneously only twice in the past 25 years, and then only briefly. The first real test of power backup systems at the site was on Oct. 17. In addition to each station's generator, the building and tower lights use a house generator. There has been talk at Sutro of installing a master generator and an identical backup to power all transmitters

simultaneously instead of every station being on its own. Only a giant gas turbine — essentially a jet engine with a generator attached — could provide this much power. A turbine is more reliable than a diesel engine. Stations would keep their current generators as backup for the master power supply.

There were plenty of generator success stories during the crisis. Because KNBR-AM is the EBS Common Point Control Station-I in the Bay Counties Operational Area, the station has always had generators at both the transmitter and the studio. Both came up immediately with no problems.

The generator at Sutro for KGO-TV got the station back up within a minute after the quake. Two of the three 300kW gas turbine generators at the studio downtown fired up and came on-line according to plan, also within one minute. The third generator is the backup for the other two. Engineers waited several minutes for equipment to stabilize before the entire plant was turned back on, powering the newsroom and the technical areas. The building air conditioning also was running normally.

Jim Kraenzel, chief engineer of independent KICU-TV, channel 36, San Jose, reported no damage to either studios or transmitter. Generators at the studio in San Jose and at the transmitter on Monument Peak near Milpitas in the East Bay hills came on automatically with no problem. The station was back on the air at 5:05 p.m., a minute after the quake, and aired the South Bay's first news about the disaster at 5:25 p.m. Kraenzel described the station's technical situation as "very un-

eventful," with the studio generator handling master control and a small jury-rigged news set and editing bay patched into master control.

By the time the earthquake had finished rattling and rolling, power had been restored to some parts of Group W's KPIX-TV studio building in downtown San Francisco, including most technical and some news areas. A pair of 150kW generators started automatically and kept the station on the air throughout the disaster. One generator supplies technical power, while the other provides certain lights and background power for the building.

What KPIX needed and did not have was lighting in areas such as the restrooms. In the generator startup interim, seven uninterruptible power supply (UPS) systems kept computer random-access memories alive in master control and in the newsroom, as well as in other gear scattered around the station. The generators lacked the capacity to run the air-conditioning chillers, although the blowers moved air around. A large, sealed window had to be broken to let cool evening air in, which was then circulated by portable fans.

The studio stayed on generator power for 14 hours. KPIX manager of operations and engineering Steve Moreen said the experience showed him the importance of having the entire plant powered, including all offices, equipment, studio lights and airconditioning. To that end, he probably will install a much larger generator set in the near future. He plans to keep the two 150kW units as backups.

Fortunately, the only problems for KSBW-TV in Salinas were a 2-way repeater and a few bookcases that fell over at the studio downtown and the loss of a surveillance camera at the transmitter site. The 450kW generator at the site turned on immediately, as well as the 500kW unit at the studio that runs everything from the STL to the air conditioning to the hall lights.

KSBW personnel were the first TV broadcasters to get to Santa Cruz, the seaside community devastated by the quake. The station has a small news bureau there, which it powered with a 2kW generator the engineering staff brought to the scene, one of several small gen-sets the station keeps in reserve for emergencies. The 2kW was enough to power the microwave and some ENG gear. With the telephones out between Santa Cruz and the rest of the world, the KSBW people relied on their 450MHz 2-way radio relayed by the repeater at the transmitter site in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

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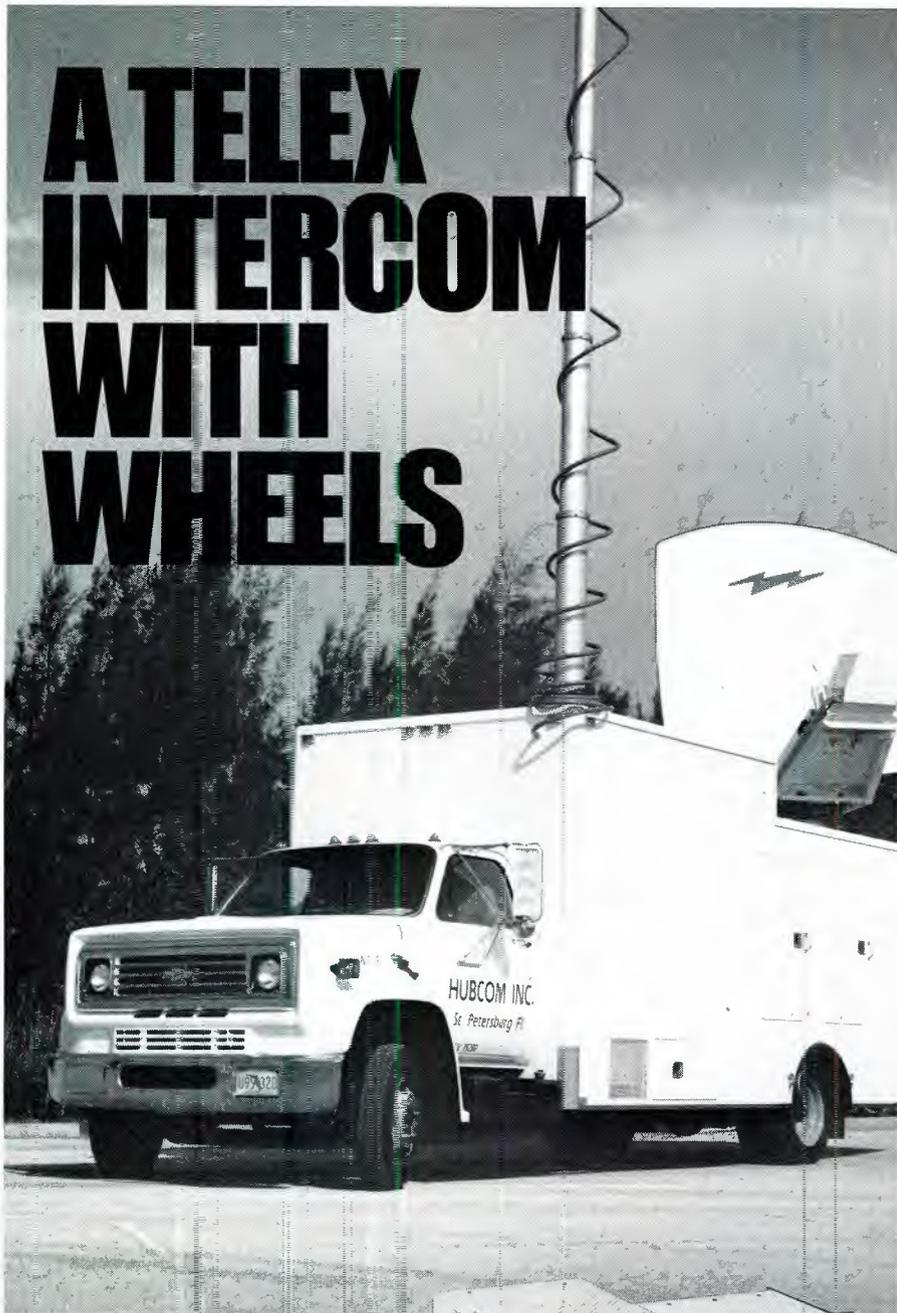
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vision, a major cable operator in San Francisco, his system and others around the bay came through virtually unscathed. Viacom shares generator use at its cable head-end site with KGO-TV. A smaller 12kW propane generator powers its nearby satellite downlink site. Most of its "supertrunks" are standby-powered and were restored to operation immediately.

5. Build in fuel redundancy.

Several TV and radio stations went off the air because they lost the fuel supply for their generators. Either their tanks spilled or the fuel pumps feeding diesel from the main tanks to the day tanks failed. Preventing potential fuel-supply problems is tedious but not difficult. Backup electrical pumps powered by a UPS (hooked into main generator power once the gen-set is running) should be an essential part of your emergency setup. Split your fuel into separate tanks, if zoning permits. Anchor fuel tanks solidly in concrete, adding steel straps or guys under tension on all sides. Make sure you have simple tools handy at all times, such as pipe wrenches, hand pumps, 5-gallon cans and 55-gallon drums (along with plenty of cloth rags) so you can transport and receive emergency rations of fuel.

KNTV could not return to the air right away because it lost all 1,500 gallons of diesel fuel from its storage tank, which had toppled and ruptured. KBAY-FM, San Jose, which shares tower space with KNTV, also lost all of its diesel fuel for its generator. The station remained off the air until the following day, when KNTV was able to give it power.

Independent KLXV-TV, channel 65, also at the site, suffered severe transmission-line damage on its separate tower. Realizing it was off the air for the duration of the crisis, KLXV offered KNTV the use of its diesel fuel. However, no one there had any containers or other means of transporting the borrowed fuel the quarter-mile from one transmitter building to the other. Later, a nearby rancher, hearing of KNTV's fuel crisis, trucked over a 55-gallon drum of precious diesel, with an offer of more if needed. This kind of cooperation between broadcasters and citizens was typical throughout the emergency around the bay.

Meanwhile, the diesel fuel company that normally services KNTV managed to scramble a pickup truck to the site with several hundred gallons, adding to a fuel cache that lasted until regular power was restored to Loma Prieta two days after the quake.

KOFY-TV, channel 20, San Francisco, also had its share of Murphy's Law at work. With the power outages at Sutro and at the studio downtown, both generator sets came on normally, and the station began broadcasting special earth-

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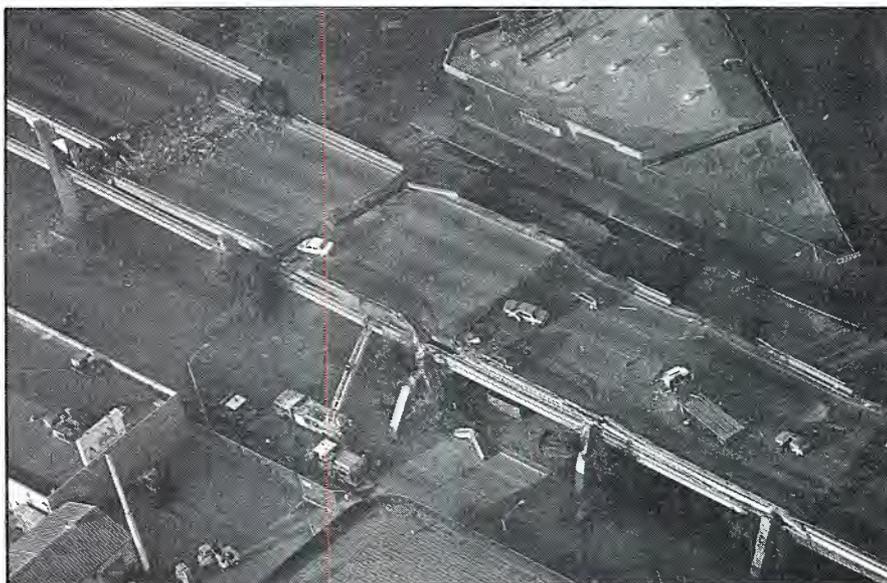
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quake updates. But 40 minutes later, a 480V diesel fuel pump at Sutro burned out, and the fuel-starved 480V generator died. KOFY's Jim Gabbert and his engineer Doug Crall raced to the site. Assisted by Bill Ruck of KFOG/KNBR, they found a 55-gallon drum of diesel and hand-carried it to the day tank, filling the little reservoir with a hand pump. After the air was purged from the fuel injectors, the generator started easily and ran until PG&E restored power to the site at 10 p.m. Several FM stations on Mount Sutro use KOFY's generator.

Technical supervisor Shingo Kamada of KCBS-AM/KRQR-FM, San Francisco, said that just before the quake struck, they were preparing to switch over to Candlestick Park for the CBS Radio Network pregame show of the World Series. As soon as the quake struck, KCBS switched over to Candlestick for a report, because the stadium had not immediately lost power.

KCBS and sister station KRQR (which simulcasted KCBS throughout the emergency) are located on the 32nd floor of the 45-floor Embarcadero Center in the financial district of San Francisco. The stations and the building have auto-start diesel generators on the roof, and they share a main tank in the basement. A single pump



The collapse of the Cypress I-880 elevated freeway that ran through downtown Oakland toward the Bay Bridge took many lives, but more may have been lost if not for the World Series. Thousands had rushed home early to watch and listen to the third game of the World Series on ABC television, CBS radio and KNBR radio. (Photo by Deanne Fitzmaurice, San Francisco Chronicle.)

forces diesel fuel up to both generator day tanks. The long fuel line was clogged, and building maintenance people hand-carried

5-gallon fuel cans to keep the 270kVA "house" unit running. With the fuel shortage, KCBS switched to house power, go-

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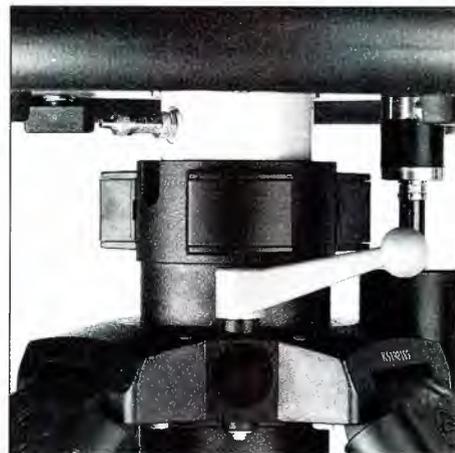
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ing off the air at 6 p.m. for about 10 minutes to make the transition. House generator operation lasted for two days.

6. Maintain and regularly check your generator and its fuel system.

A hundred little things can go wrong with a diesel, gasoline or propane generator to keep you off the air. In the quake, electric fuel pumps delivering diesel from main tanks to day tanks failed, transfer switches burned out and head gaskets blew. Although some of these problems never would have surfaced during routine maintenance, regular disaster simulation will help you discover many bugs.

Diesel generators are designed for constant operation, not intermittent duty. Diesels tend to foul when they are turned on and off and not allowed to run under load for long periods of time. For a 150kW generator that you can rely on, \$3,000 or more in annual maintenance costs is not uncommon. Typical maintenance procedures include the use of a load bank to load the unit all the way down to test it, while not affecting station operations. Under a light load or no load, a gen-set will work perfectly, but a full-load test will force nascent weaknesses — a head gasket ready to blow or oil and fuel pump

problems — to reveal themselves.

7. Arrange ahead of time with your local generator service and parts dealer for priority attention during a disaster.

Bay Area generator dealers provided broadcasters with excellent service during the crisis. However, had the disaster been any greater, these dealers could have been overwhelmed. Make sure you have a contractual arrangement, and a personalized "inside track," with a reputable generator service organization that will provide you with both instant response and a backup generator in case yours fails entirely. Insist on having the home phone numbers of key people in all your vendors' organizations. They'll cooperate if they really want your business. If they don't, then these are not the people you can rely on in an emergency.

Sterling Davis, director of operations and engineering at KTVU, reports he was able to reach all needed vendors during the crisis. When his transmitter generator blew a head gasket, he immediately got through by phone to the generator company, whose people quickly got to the site with a standby unit of equal size.

8. Spend the money to rewire your equip-

ment and house power circuits.

The wiring design of many stations prevents selective load management during generator use. Segregating loads does not mean you have to give up all your creature comforts to run equipment and lights. Air-conditioning chillers and lights in the restrooms are important to keep machines running and people happy. In the aftermath of a disaster, last-minute wiring and extension cords snaking all over the shop are clumsy and dangerous.

Make your equipment power as independent as possible from the house wiring. Be sure to include the elevators in your backup power plan. You don't want to leave someone trapped inside an elevator in the event of building evacuation forced by an earthquake, a fire or an approaching tornado.

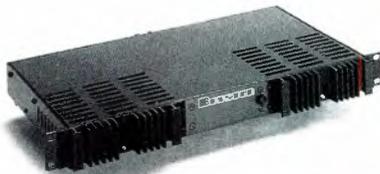
Intelligent wiring design makes your all-important "backups within backups" most effective. If your built-in studio generator fails and you have to rely on a smaller backup unit brought in from a generator rental outfit, a simple flip of a few switches easily can route power to just those areas needed to keep a minimum operation going. Remember, for most stations, a disaster means your news department becomes king of the hill. You must not

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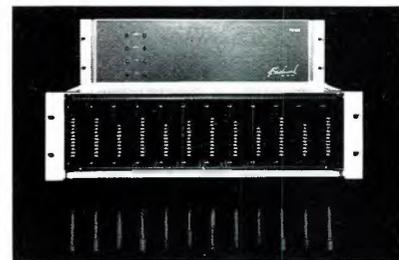


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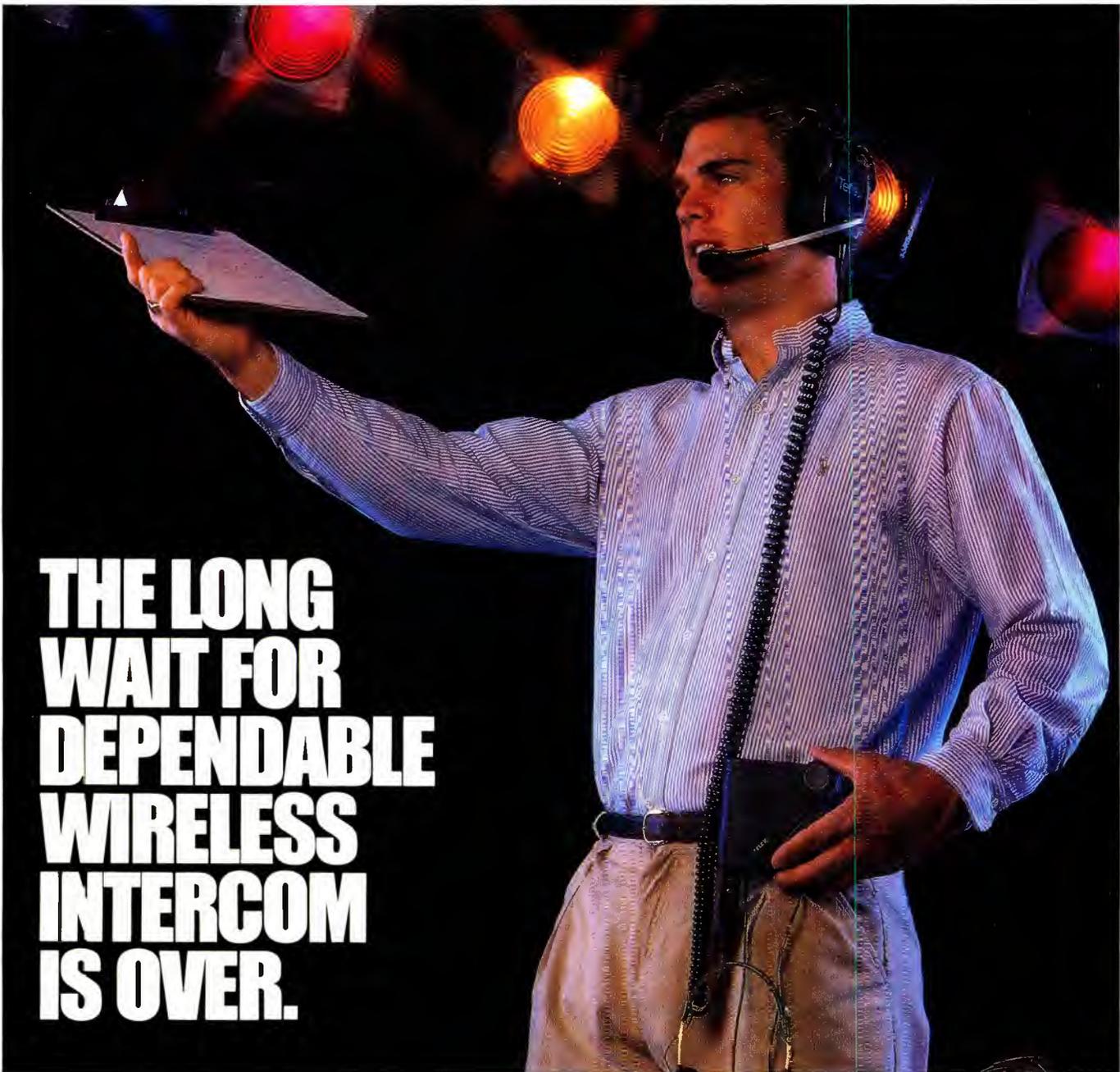


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The importance of building high-rise and high-weight structures on bedrock was emphasized by the failure of a portion of the Bay Bridge, which runs between San Francisco and Oakland. The concrete pier moved during the quake, pulling the bridge apart like a toy. (Photo by Deanne Fitzmaurice, San Francisco Chronicle.)

only keep it going under all circumstances (such as generator failure), but also be able to quickly make the needed power switch-overs for lights and equipment if your main generator fails.

9. Don't forget the studio UPS.

With the exception of some aging batteries in a few uninterruptible power supplies failing sooner than expected, Bay Area broadcasters had no complaints about the way their units performed during the disaster. Besides helping with brief, "routine" power outages, a UPS in a major disaster will keep the studio on the air from a few minutes to several hours while you get your generator going. A UPS also will protect your gear from transients caused when the power company shuts down various grids to protect its own equipment. Of course, because most power outages in a big disaster also will affect your transmitter site, having your studio up and running could mean your STL is talking to a "black hole!"

With the studio already operational, however, your listeners will get more than a carrier with dead air or black video when the generator at the transmitter site finally kicks on.

10. Make sure the design of your backup power system is as simple as possible.

Components in the generator and control systems should be the "off-the-shelf" variety. Parts not normally stocked locally should be replaced immediately, such as odd-voltage generator fuel pumps or unusual switches that have to be back-ordered from a warehouse somewhere across the country. Spend the time and money to simplify your system and to eliminate overly complicated parts and systems.

11. Keep battery-operated equipment handy.

Simple battery-powered, consumer radios and televisions should be available on site so staff members can check on themselves and the competition. Flashlights and electric lanterns, as well as the dry cell batteries to run them, are always at a premium in an emergency. Every staff member in the station, including secretaries and assistants, should have a flashlight of some kind. Some say rechargeable flashlights work best because their batteries don't go flat. Others maintain that rechargeables don't last as long when in use — many sites were without regular power for two days — and that a large sup-

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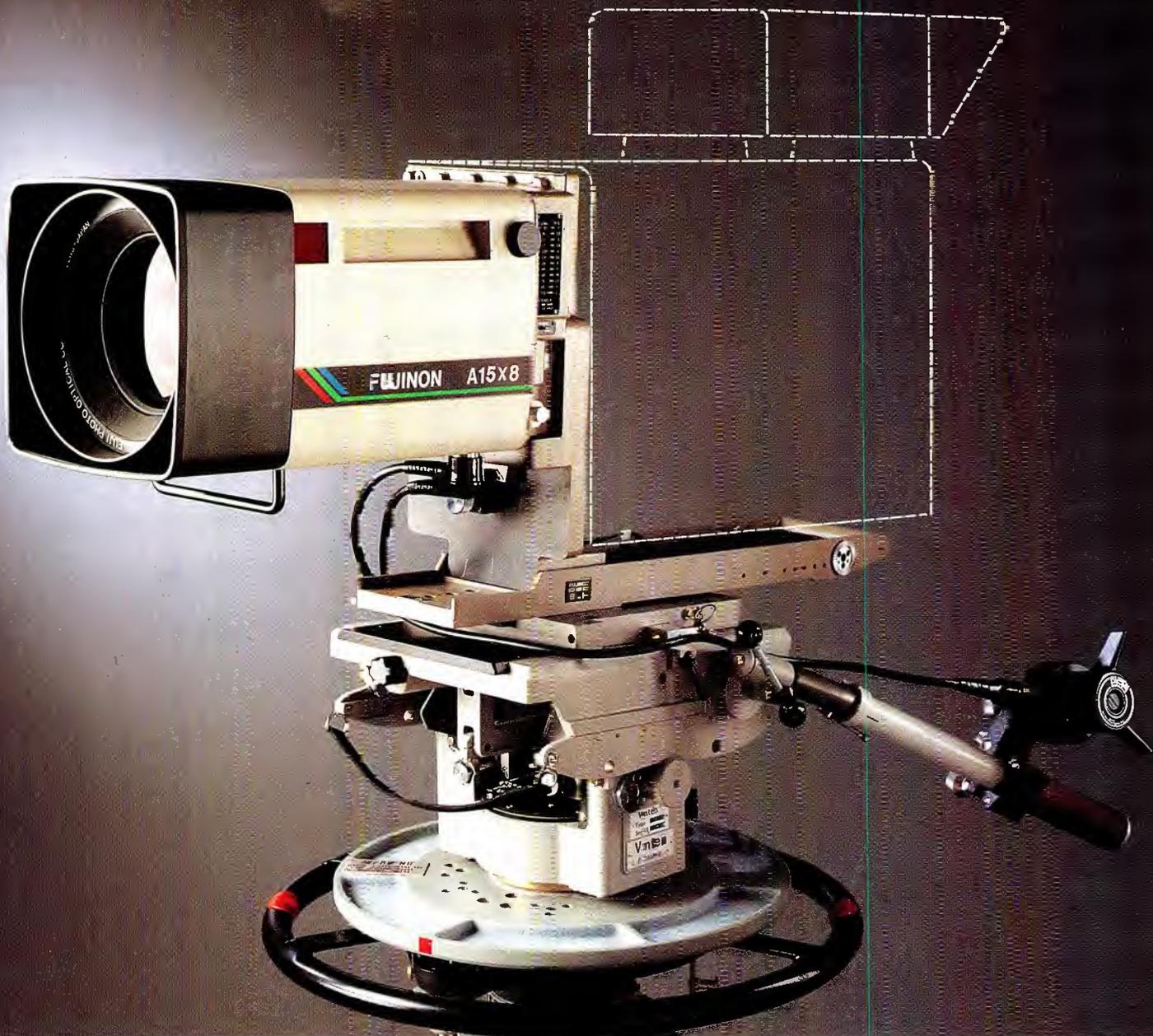
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ply of dry cells provides better backup. Of course, over long periods, extra dry cells should be stored in a refrigerator or freezer that is easily accessible.

When KTVU lost power for its STL, telemetry and 2-way radio, it also lost the ability to check on its transmitter across the bay on Mount Sutro. Phones were out. There weren't any battery-powered hand-talkies to reach Sutro or even a simple, battery-operated television to use to check whether the carrier was still on. Thanks to the automatic generator, the transmitter was, in fact, on the air, broadcasting a black signal. The staff finally was able to determine that via phone calls to Sutro Tower.

12. Install surveillance cameras to help assess damage.

In this era of unattended transmitters, telemetry alone doesn't always tell the story. Even if the generator at the site has kicked on or you have a UPS to power your STL and other non-transmitter functions for a few minutes, surveillance cameras tied into the STL can help you visually assess damage quickly.

13. Plan for emergency 2-way communications.

Always have triple-redundant backup emergency communications with the transmitter site and with your vehicles going to and from the station, including ENG vans. In the aftermath of the quake, some engineers were forced to rely on irregular telephone service, including pay phones, to communicate with people at the transmitter and at the station. The quake knocked out many 2-way systems, although commercial cellular phones seemed to work well throughout the crisis.

Handi-talkies and mobile radios tuned to your 2-way frequency should be placed throughout the plant and distributed to station personnel to keep in their homes. The battery charge of the radios should be inspected regularly at all sites. With phone service out, you must be able to keep going by deploying your people efficiently. The listeners and viewers are depending on you to keep them informed.

When the violent shaking stopped, as well as their carrier signal, engineers at KNTV assumed the worst. Stuck in the middle of Silicon Valley, with the roads leading to the transmitter site in gridlock, the station's chief engineer, Dick Swank, and director of engineering, Lou Bell, located and rented a helicopter, normally reserved for news emergencies, to take them

to the top of the mountain. The urgency of their mission was increased by the fact that 2-way communications with the site had been cut off, and they feared that their transmitter technician, Jim Farish, had been hurt and needed assistance.

The quake had physically knocked over and wrecked the 2-way 450MHz repeater on the mountain and severed telephone wiring inside the transmitter building, although Pacific Bell's transmission lines had not been damaged. The 2-way base station at the studio in San Jose had also tipped over and was out of commission.

Using malfunctioning handi-talkies, Farish managed to contact Swank down in San Jose, telling him the situation at the site was "real bad" and that he needed help. Because of problems with the handi-talkies, Farish could not hear Swank's reply. Farish did not respond to the base station's repeated questions about whether he needed medical attention. When Swank and Bell finally reached the transmitter by helicopter, they found Farish bruised and shaken, but otherwise fine. He was already at work repairing the damaged installation.

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only later did the network news people move across the bay to CBS affiliate KPIX in San Francisco — telephone communications still were at a premium. The 14 limousines in the KTVU parking lot were not there for network bigshots or visiting dignitaries but because their cellular phones were needed by CBS news people.

14. Don't put all your backup studio "eggs" in one basket.

When preparing your facility for a disaster, you don't know what pieces you'll have to play with in the aftermath. Besides those measures taken for studio and transmitter power and equipment backups, have a contingency plan that allows you maximum independence from your traditional methods of operation.

As KPIX pulled itself together after the initial shock of the quake, master-control technicians put a slide up to let viewers know that emergency news coverage was about to begin. About eight minutes later, live earthquake coverage began from a small, on-air update desk in the newsroom not normally used for extended periods.

The news desk was designed for solo cut-ins, and was set up with only one microphone and one camera at the time. For the first 30 minutes, sitting before one camera, the two announcers passed a single lavalier microphone back and forth. Later, equipment was brought up from the newsroom, allowing KPIX engineers to build up more audio and video capability as they went along. The setup was so successful that KPIX news created a new 5 o'clock news program when normal broadcasting resumed. The new show is anchored from that technically improved desk, which will again become the broadcast center in the next emergency, able to be switched instantly to the STL or routed to other parts of the shop.

KGO-TV was in good shape to cope with a disaster. As soon as it regained power and reset the equipment, the station immediately switched "live" to the newsroom's update desk, to which on-air talent and news people already had scrambled. The update desk is used for the morning news and for news "teasers" and inserts during newscasts, but was not intended for long broadcasts. However, that area in the newsroom already was set up with two cameras, two microphones and simple lighting, with the output easily routed to master control and the STL.

The improvisational abilities of the engineering staff at KRON were put to the test in this crisis. For a variety of reasons, the station lacked a large standby generator, but had a smaller unit to power portions of master control and the STL. The staff patched a camera, a tape deck to roll footage and a microphone pre-amplifier directly into the STL rack. A small lighting kit illuminated the makeshift on-air



Bay Area broadcasters were spared the kind of damage the quake inflicted on the Marina District near the Golden Gate Bridge. Unlike the bridge, the Marina is built entirely on bay fill, which went into liquefaction during the shaking, amplifying ground movement. Gas pipes ruptured and exploded as buildings crumbled. With pressure down to fight fires, only water pumped from the nearby San Francisco Bay prevented tragedy from becoming catastrophe. (Photo by Deanne Fitzmaurice, San Francisco Chronicle.)

news set placed in a corner of master control. KRON was back on the air with live news at 5:35 p.m., one-half hour after the outage. By the middle of the first evening, a large rental generator was tied into the main bus of the building, so the regular news set in the newsroom could be used again, along with background power for lighting and other functions.

Sometimes, the aftershocks of an earthquake are as intense as the initial jolt. No one in San Francisco knew whether big aftershocks would hit or whether widespread fires would break out, endangering the downtown KRON studios. Wanting backup for a possibly unstable studio situation, Trumbull, an ENG crew and two on-air news people left for the transmitter site at Mount Sutro. They commandeered the chief engineer's office and turned the room into an impromptu studio. Using house generator power, the KRON people set up two lights, a camera, microphones and a mic pre-amp. Trumbull ran video and line-level audio cables several hundred feet down to KRON's transmitter room one floor below.

They went on the air with this setup two hours after the quake, giving the people in the studio downtown a break and a chance to improve their makeshift newsroom in master control. Video switching

was manual via a patch panel, causing some "glitches" over the air. By the time they went on the air from Sutro, the KRON engineers had set up a tape editor and two decks out in the parking lot next to the ENG truck, with a garbage dumpster making a convenient monitor stand.

At 9:30 p.m., the big rental generator had arrived downtown, so the little operation at Sutro took over for 30 minutes with tape playback and live reports to give studio engineers time to install the gen-set and switch over to its power. By that time, Trumbull had looped the video and audio from the Sutro office down to the ENG truck, which had a small switcher to go between the talent and the tape playback in the parking lot. The output of the truck went into the KRON transmitter room, where Trumbull stood by for his cue by telephone to switch manually from the downtown feed to Sutro. Luckily for the parking lot editors, it wasn't raining.

(NBC News was criticized for its late start in covering the disaster. The network, in turn, through widely publicized news reports, criticized KRON's delay in getting back on the air. In fact, KRON was off for only one-half hour during the entire crisis. By 5:45 p.m., NBC-TV affiliate KCRA-TV in Sacramento had picked up KRON's signal off the air and was uplinking the signal on NBC's K2 satellite.

CNN put up the KRON signal and rebroadcast the coverage around the world well before NBC News. KRON was available to NBC on two satellite frequencies, the KCRA feed and the CNN re-uplink. KRON did not have enough generator power to run the NBC-owned uplink located at the studio downtown. NBC, which is responsible for the installation, maintenance and remote-control operation of the uplink at KRON, had no backup power for its unit.)

With power losses and bad luck, more studios than transmitters were knocked out in the earthquake. A solution to a dark or destroyed studio facility may be sitting in your news department parking lot. An ENG truck can be equipped to be your mobile studio if the transmitter is still going but everything else is down. The truck normally can function as an ENG unit, but in the event of a disaster that destroys or totally disables the studio, the unit's standing order is to "become" the station, transmitting directly to the transmitter with its own microwave.

For most stations, such a setup would require an additional ENG link at the transmitter, easily patched over by on-site personnel notified by 2-way radio. Besides cameras, hand-held and lavalier mics and related gear, the ENG/mobile mini-studio van should include basic tape-editing facilities, a rudimentary video-audio switcher, two 2-way radios on different frequencies, several handi-talkies on varying

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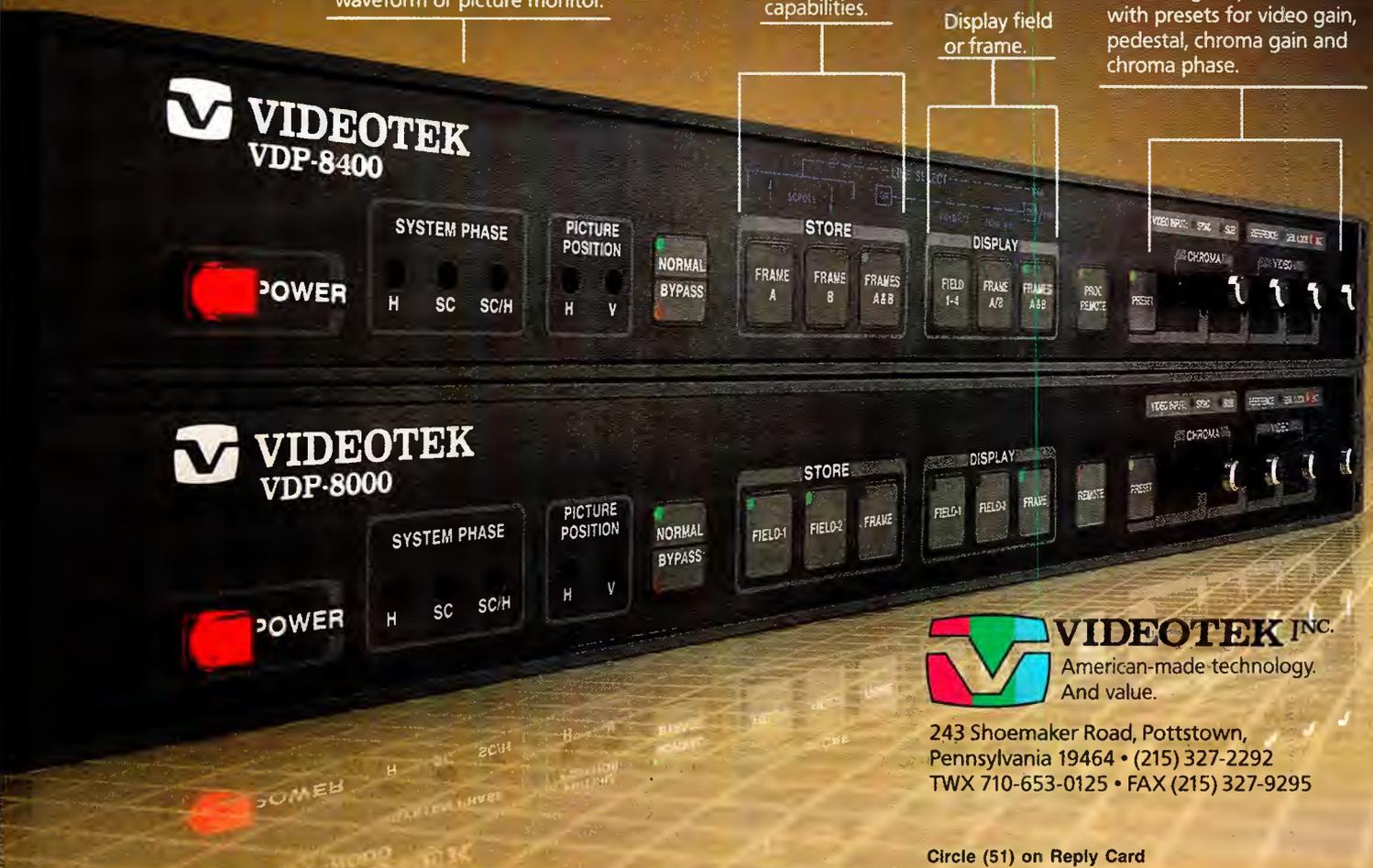
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frequencies, at least two cellular phones, lots of extension cords and adapters for all manner of video, audio and power hookups.

It also should include some basic office equipment and supplies, such as paper and a manual typewriter or battery-operated laptop computer and printer. The unit should be able to transmit directly to the STL at the transmitter and should be able to contact the nearest station engineer by 2-way to request that he or she join the mobile operation for the duration.

Out of necessity, KTVU created a similar ENG/mobile mini-studio in the middle of the crisis. The house emergency power switching system had malfunctioned, and the studio and STL were dark. While engineers worked to restore power to the studio, the news department got permission to try to transmit to the 2GHz STL on Mount Sutro using one of the ENG trucks. It was a stroke of good luck that the STL happened to be on the same frequency as the ENG transmitter. Some adaptations were made to the aural side of the link and, although the audio was distorted, the idea worked. KTVU news was on the air after 45 minutes, broadcasting from the parking lot directly to the transmitter. The makeshift situation last-

ed until about 7:30 p.m., when generator power to the studio and the STL was restored.

15. Make sure key equipment is safely located, but handy and well-marked.

Emergency equipment such as your EBS monitor, reset switches (with protective covers), alarms and 2-way communications should be installed where they will be protected from people wandering around in the dark or from being tossed around like tennis balls during an earthquake. The equipment must be handy for accessibility, however, and well-marked with clear lettering. Remember, in the first few seconds or minutes of an emergency, people may be groping around the studio and transmitter rooms using flashlights and cigarette lighters to locate and operate this gear.

16. Don't forget the creature comforts.

Broadcasters are an incredibly dedicated bunch of people. Most employees of Bay Area radio and TV stations, including members of the sales and secretarial staffs, who helped out in a hundred ways, stayed on the job until well into the following day. Be prepared for personnel to remain at the station for several days. A disaster could

make movement in and out of the city impossible. Emergency supplies, such as drinking water and non-perishable food, are essential for your people both in the studio and out at the transmitter site. The deli around the corner that normally fuels your staff probably will not be in a position to serve you!

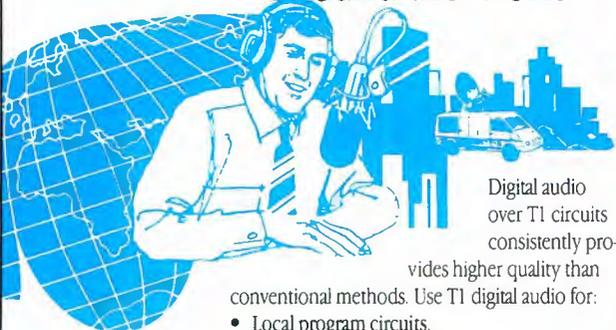
Along with first-aid kits, supplies should be well-stocked and checked once a year. Designate someone, perhaps an administrative assistant or a secretary, to handle this important task. Also, most generators cannot power the air-conditioning chillers, only the blowers. Keep a number of portable fans in reserve. They'll cool not only your equipment, but also your people.

17. Be sure at least two of your engineers can reach the transmitter and the studio at all times.

People in markets with natural obstacles such as the San Francisco Bay and the East Bay and Marin Hills depend on bridges and tunnels to allow them to get around. In the event of a disaster, engineering staff members who live on the same side of a body of water or a mountain where the transmitter and studios are located should automatically go there as soon as possible. They should assume they are needed,

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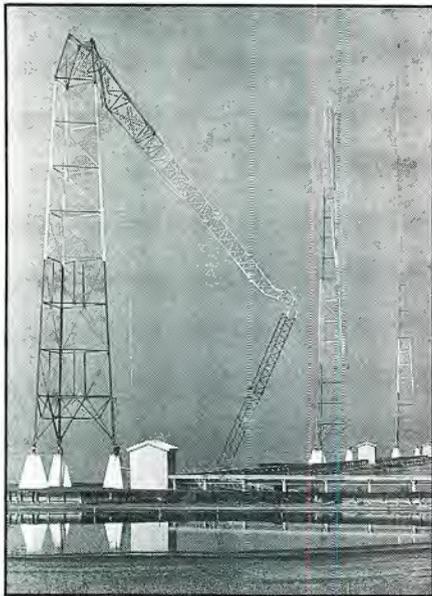
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ABC-owned KGO-AM in San Francisco and ABC affiliate KNTV-TV, channel 11 in San Jose, both suffered major tower damage from the earthquake. Shown here are the two KGO 304-foot towers that buckled over at mid-span. The third tower was left standing, but was bent and out of plumb. The transmitter building and its equipment came through unscathed. (Photo by Ben Margot, Hayward Daily Review.)

because telephone and radio communications probably will be knocked out, as they were in most parts of the Bay Area just after the quake. Everyone should have pre-assigned tasks based on "if...then" scenarios worked out in advance.

When KTVU's transmitter generator stopped several hours into the crisis, transmitter telemetry indicating normal generator function confused the diagnosis of this new outage. With all bridges across the bay closed and traffic at a standstill in many places, no one could get from the studio in Oakland to Mount Sutro in San Francisco. Luckily, KPIX transmitter supervisor Steve Spies and KOFY-TV's Doug Crall were already at Sutro and jumped in to help, diagnosing the KTVU generator's problem as low water caused by a partially blown head gasket.

The Good Samaritan engineers refilled the radiator and restarted the KTVU generator. That episode kept the station off the air for only half an hour. Later that night, Sterling Davis of KTVU was able to get through by phone to one of his staff members, who lived on the San Francisco side of the bay, to ask him to go to Mount Sutro to nurse the ailing generator through the night until a replacement unit arrived.

The unattended KCBS/KRQR transmitters are located in Novato in Marin County north of San Francisco on the other side of the Golden Gate Bridge. After the stations lost power, a generator there kicked on automatically, and the transmitters reset and went back on the air. Still, the generator and transmitter needed tending. With the Golden Gate and other bridges closed just after the quake, KCBS was lucky that one of its maintenance engineers happened to live in Marin County and could reach the transmitter site easily within a few minutes.

18. Work out your emergency transportation arrangements now, not in the middle of a crisis.

Emergency transportation — 4-wheel-drive vehicles and helicopters not commandeered by your news department, the competition or the government — are essential to get your people to the transmitter site, to reach emergency parts and equipment sources and, if necessary, to transport injured staff members to a hospital. Naturally, the "911" emergency service during a quake or other major disaster is virtually useless. Four-wheel-drive vehicles were a necessity in getting equipment into and around the Santa Cruz area,

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both for news crews and for engineers maintaining equipment there. Damaged highways forced detours over rough roads. Things could have been worse; the rains that later turned the area into a quagmire held off for the days immediately following the quake.

You may think that, because your studios and transmitters are both located downtown, you won't need a 4-wheel-drive vehicle to get around in a disaster. But imagine what the condition of the streets of Chicago would be if a tornado ripped through the city. A Blazer or Bronco may be the only way to make your way over the rubble to get that vital transmitter part to the site. The main lesson of San Francisco is this: Except for the charity of your fellow broadcasters and a few citizens who may be hit as badly as you, you're on your own.

By the time KNTV engineers realized they had a generator fuel problem at the transmitter on Loma Prieta in the Santa Cruz mountains, flying fuel to the site was out of the question. The helicopter they had used to rush to the mountaintop had since been commandeered for emergency work by Santa Clara County public safety officials. An engineer at the studio in San Jose found some 5-gallon gas cans,

filled them with diesel and drove to the transmitter site. The trip normally takes about an hour from the station. His journey through gridlocked traffic, complete with roads blocked by houses, rocks as big as cars and other debris, lasted five hours.

Sometimes you get lucky in an emergency. Working with ABC Sports, KGO-TV News had access to pictures from cameras on its helicopter already in the air for the World Series, as well as on the Goodyear blimp rented by ABC Sports, which first noticed the black smoke from the fires in the Marina District in the northern part of the city. These pictures were some of the first to show the extent of the quake damage.

Like other stations, when the quake struck, the KPIX traffic helicopter was already in the air. By 5:14 p.m., the station was airing live video of the collapsed Nimitz Freeway structure and relaying the pictures to its satellite uplink site in El Cerrito, east of Oakland.

19. Decide your station's EBS-use policy now.

Shortly after the quake, while KFOG/KNBR's Bill Ruck was driving to Mount Sutro to check on the transmitter, he heard San Francisco Fire Central Alarm and

Alameda County Office of Emergency Services (OES) attempting to contact KNBR on 161.76MHz, the designated EBS channel. They were having problems getting through because of other radio traffic on the channel. San Francisco fire officials asked the other stations to leave the channel, but they apparently continued to use the frequency for a time. (See the related story, "EBS: Did the System Fail?")

The Emergency Broadcast System has its uses, but an earthquake may not be one of them. Some say the system should be revamped, that EBS is as outmoded as the Cold War. According to some, EBS in San Francisco didn't work very well and probably was not needed during the quake in the first place.

Engineering managers say this should have been decided months or years ago, not in the middle of the disaster. Station and engineering management should map out a dozen or so "typical" local disaster scenarios and decide when and how the station will participate in the system, if at all. Become active in your local and state EBS committees. You might call your colleagues in the San Francisco Bay Area for their ideas. Whatever your involvement in the system, make sure your EBS equipment is designed for real-life use, includ-

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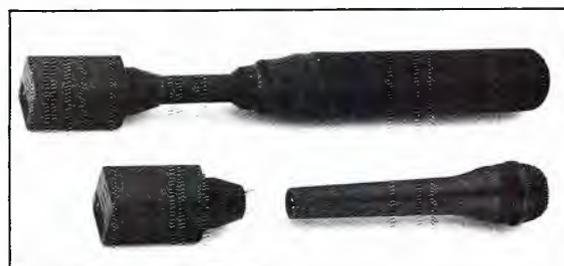


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ing accessibility in a poorly lit environment and easy cross-patching to other equipment such as recorders, boards and STLs.

20. Practice makes perfect.

Although KNBR-AM lost only about two minutes of on-air time, the problem may have been avoidable. On-air personnel in the studio did not understand the console reset procedure and had to be coached on the phone by chief engineer Ruck.

Drill not only your engineering and maintenance staff, but also on-air "combo" talent in technical procedures, including simple chores such as turning off sensitive studio and office equipment before power is restored. Guidelines should be written out, short and simple, and regularly distributed, updated and interpreted in staff meetings for all station personnel, no matter how low or high they are on the totem pole, and no matter what department they're in. Remember, during a disaster, your sales or traffic manager may end up running the board if your en-

gineering staff members are away from the station or are injured.

Stress test your system. Engineers at KTVU had their share of tough luck staying on the air the first night of the emergency. Like most Bay Area broadcasters, they were having problems with electricity. When they lost power at 5:05 p.m. and the 450kW diesel generator in the studio's basement automatically turned on, one leg of the 3-phase, 600A transfer switch failed to connect, leaving much of the station dark. There's a chance that regular practice runs on the system might have uncovered this weak switch.

Besides regular generator maintenance, KPIX does a twice-yearly, full-building shutdown test by pulling the main breaker for the building, allowing the plant to go dark and letting the generators come up automatically. The staff sees what's working and what's not, what's blown and what needs resetting. When the station goes on emergency power, a handy check list shows what equipment needs to be reset. Usually, this drill results in the loss

of one or more pieces of equipment — gear that would have failed in a real emergency. The KPIX staff says this "weeding out" of marginal equipment is the key to reliability both before and during a crisis.

Every six months, take your station "down" by killing the main breakers at both the studio and the transmitter. Watch what comes on and stays on and what doesn't, what handles fluctuating generator power and loads and what burns out. Is all the equipment being powered by that precious diesel fuel, such as that digital video effects box, really necessary to keep you on the air, your staff effective and your station looking and sounding acceptable in an emergency?

You can't predict every possible problem or plan every contingency for a future emergency that you can only imagine. However, the San Francisco earthquake of 1989 demonstrates the need to try. Common sense, and a clear sense of urgency, will pay you and your station big dividends when the next disaster strikes.

EBS: Did the system fail?

KNBR-AM is the Common Point Control Station-1 (CPCS-1) in the Bay Counties Operational Area for the Emergency Broadcast System. Within minutes of the October 1989 San Francisco earthquake, both the Alameda County Office of Emergency Services and the San Francisco Fire Department's Central Fire Alarm Station (CFAS) began transmitting on a designated remote pickup (RPU) VHF channel (161.76MHz) to KNBR requesting activation of EBS. The only message that Alameda County wanted to get out on the EBS system was, "All Oakland Fire Department personnel should return to duty," essentially a simple public service announcement. San Francisco city and county CFAS put city hall officials on the air several times, as well as San Francisco Mayor Art Agnos (with the same announcements in multiple languages) and California Lieutenant Governor Leo McCarthy, who was acting governor at the time.

According to broadcast engineers in charge of responding to EBS, the San Francisco Office of Emergency Services had no idea what the EBS was or how to implement it. No one at the San Francisco CFAS gave the EBS authorization code to activate the system. In the first minutes of the crisis, communications from government agencies to broadcasters were garbled or non-existent. KNBR's engineering manager, Bill Ruck, helped keep EBS going with much impromptu work, because City Hall was having trouble using the system.

Fortunately, an engineer friend of Ruck's, Mike Newman, who had been working on the fire department's communication system, arrived at San Francisco Fire Department headquarters and began transmitting fire department information to KNBR on the RPU. Ruck, who was on his way to the transmitter site, heard Newman's transmissions but realized the CFAS had not given the authorization code. He got on the 2-way radio to KNBR and told the staff to accept as valid any of Newman's information. The CFAS picked up the cue, and Newman and Ruck worked together through the night to make sure that Mayor Agnos and his staff could broadcast whatever they wanted on the EBS.

A serious engineering problem almost kept this disjointed EBS effort from succeeding. City Hall had an intermittent-duty, 2-way radio with a 90-second timeout timer to prevent burnout of the final stage. The unit is designed to transmit only 10% of the time and receive 90%.

The disaster, however, required transmissions lasting several minutes at a time, including long statements from officials in several languages, including Spanish, Chinese and Tagalog. The little radio finally burned out. About 8 p.m., three hours into the disaster, Ruck took a heavier-duty Marti transmitter from KNBR, drove to the CFAS, climbed its tower in nearly total darkness, hung an antenna, ran coaxial cable into the building and set up the replacement rig

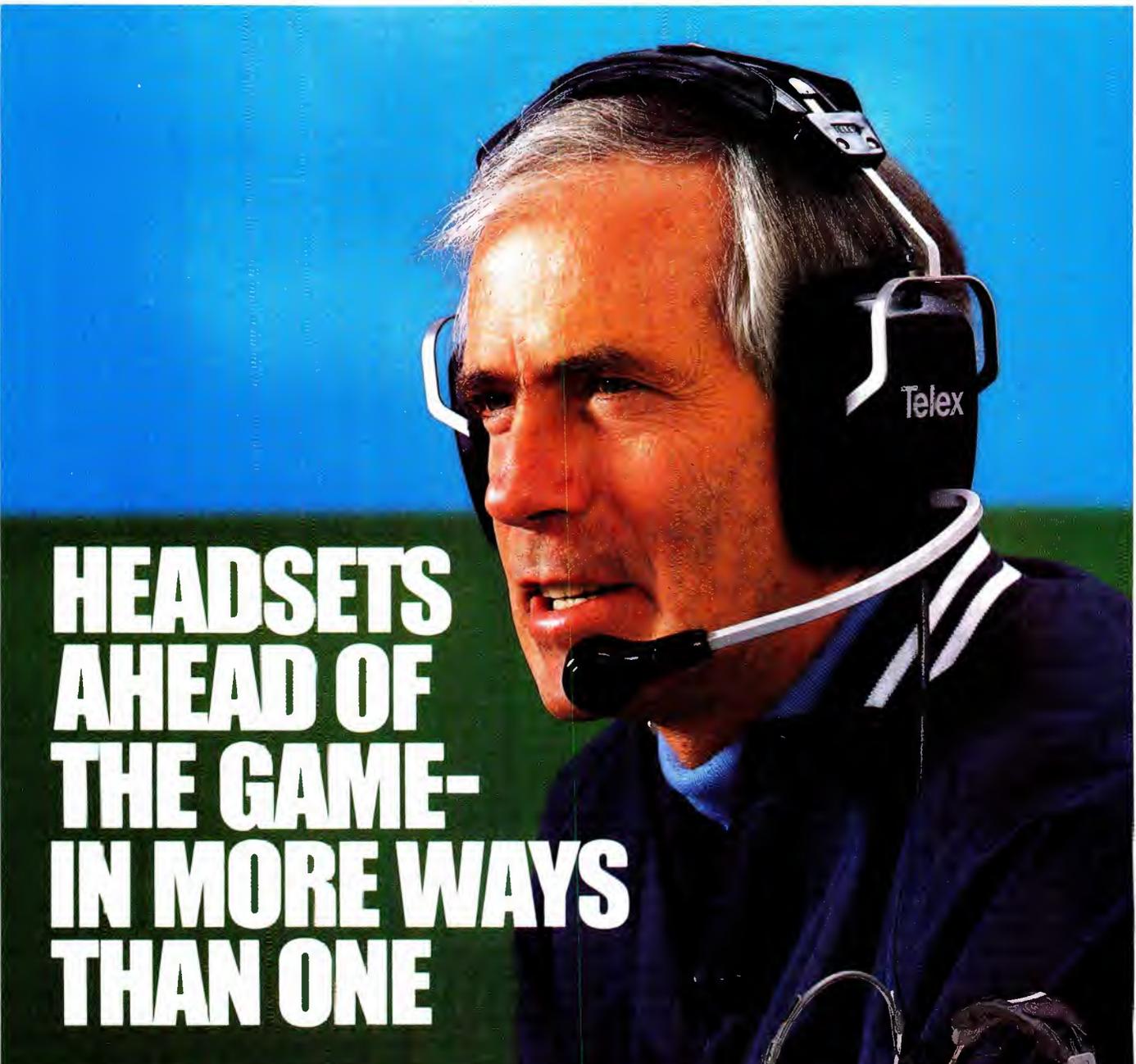
for the city's use for the duration of the crisis.

How EBS is supposed to work

EBS is a chain. In an emergency, civil officials are supposed to activate the system by contacting the local CPCS-1 station — KNBR in San Francisco for the Bay Area — by 2-way radio on a reserved frequency. All other stations constantly monitor the CPCS-1 with special EBS receivers. When civil authorities or political entities activate the system to issue emergency orders for public safety, such as safety warnings, curfew or evacuation announcements, the CPCS-1 emits tones over its normal broadcast carrier. The tones trigger alarms in EBS receivers. The EBS receiver unmutes and begins providing CPCS-1 audio.

At this point, station managers open their Authenticator Envelopes containing the EBS validation code. There are "participating" and "non-participating" stations. The EBS directive in the envelope of a non-participating station during a Federal emergency states, "Leave the air now." The public then is compelled to retune to "official" stations receiving news from government officials.

During a state-level emergency, such as an earthquake, a non-participating station can either rebroadcast CPCS-1 audio or relay official instructions using its own station personnel. The participating radio and TV stations may be instructed to cease regular broadcasts and



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to begin relaying CPCS-1 audio. TV stations put up a slide or crawl indicating the nature of the emergency.

Does this system serve the public, or are today's news organizations so effective that people are better served in an emergency with a wide choice of news and information sources? During the emergency in the Bay Area, not one broadcaster carried KNBR's signal or even aired taped excerpts of announcements that the station broadcast from City Hall. Radio and TV stations running news and continuous coverage got their information and sound bytes through their own sources and via wire service audio and satellite video. Also, in the first few hours of the crisis, all three EBS stations — the CPCS-1 (KNBR) and the two backup CPCS stations, KCBS-AM and KGO-AM — went off the air at one time or another.

Engineers comment on EBS

If you talk to Bay Area broadcast engineers about the Emergency Broadcast System and how it worked, or didn't, after the earthquake, some heated discussion ensues, much of it unprintable. Because of the controversial nature of this topic, most engineers asked not to be named, but did want to express some

thoughts about the EBS system. Here are some sample comments:

"In San Francisco on Oct. 17, the EBS system failed."

"I thought it was good that they (EBS) were nice and quiet and stayed the hell out of the way."

"The news media scrambled and did a much better job than any official information system could ever do."

"EBS is a political problem, not an engineering problem."

"Since EBS was originally a national system, no one has decided who at the local level can activate it. Should it be the mayor of San Francisco? How about the mayor of Sausalito or the city manager of Huckleberry? Government officials who activate the EBS had better be sure that they're serving the public better than the stations with their own news and information they are taking off the air."

"EBS is an antiquated holdover from the old CONELRAD system, which EBS replaced in the 1960s. On any level —

local, state or federal — it's a concept whose time has passed."

"EBS is totally outmoded. The local stations did a wonderful job of keeping everyone up-to-date. The state people admitted that they wouldn't have been able to tell us anything anyhow."

"The system is designed for early warning, not for emergency management. We need a whole new emergency system to meet our information needs today."

"The California state Office of Emergency Services administers EBS. One of the most important decisions they make is where they're going for lunch."

"Most municipal officials in charge of emergency planning don't even know that KNBR exists. Many think that KCBS is the EBS Common Point Control Station-1."

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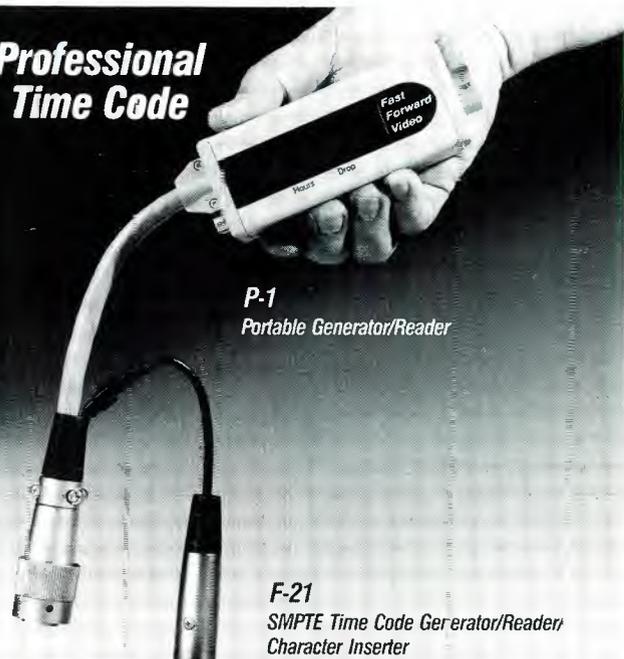
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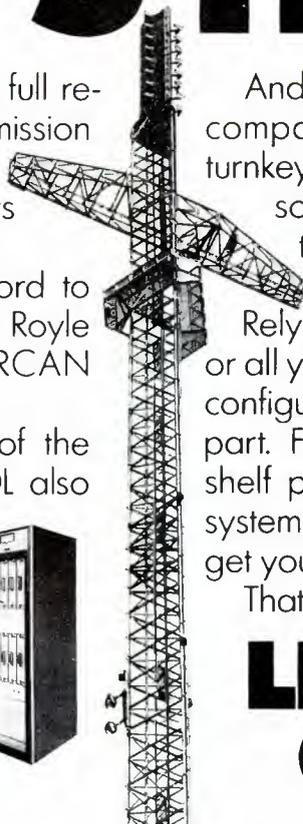
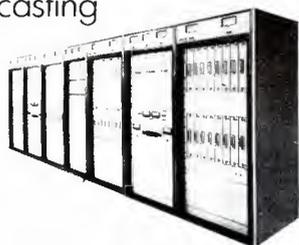


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January 1990 *Broadcast Engineering* 83

HDTV (round 8) the big news at SMPTE

By Jerry Whitaker,
editorial director

As if the questions surrounding high-definition television weren't confusing enough, yet another system has been added to the long list of proposed technologies. At the 131st SMPTE technical conference and equipment exhibition, held Oct. 21-25 in Los Angeles, Eastman Kodak Company proposed the development of a high-resolution electronic intermediate system for motion-picture film.

In the keynote address, J. Phillip Samper, Kodak vice chairman and executive officer, urged SMPTE members not to limit filmmaking as an art form for the sake of implementing new technology. Samper lauded work done by the technical society in establishing standards and providing a forum for the exchange of ideas. However, he urged attendees to put the art of making movies for theaters and television ahead of the evolution of motion imaging. The message he delivered to attendees was clear: The film community, as seen by Kodak (the major film supplier), is not satisfied with the high- or advanced-definition video systems proposed to date.

"The 1,125/60 HDTV format introduced in 1981 is intriguing and laudable, but significant interaction with the creative community is necessary before any high-definition standard can become viable," Samper said.

Samper announced that Kodak is developing a high-resolution *electronic intermediate system* for motion-picture film. The system would be used to convert 35mm film to digital data for subsequent manipulation at an image-computing workstation.

"Initially, the electronic intermediate system would be used by visual effects specialists," Samper said. "It would allow them to take advantage of advances in digital imaging technology without compromising image quality or altering the *film look* that audiences prefer." The system also would allow for the conversion of digital images back to 35mm for theatrical release.

Samper painted a bright picture for a marriage of film and very-high-definition video. He forecast a vigorous theatrical film industry with the possible return of 70mm wide-screen movies and the rapid evolution of improved sound systems.



But here is the best part. Samper called on SMPTE to begin standardization work on the electronic intermediate system. This call comes less than a year after the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) rejected SMPTE's 1125/60 HDTV standard (240M). Whether the society wants to wade into the high-definition pool once again is the subject of some debate within the organization.

The Kodak plan

According to Joerg Agin, vice president and general manager of Kodak's motion picture and audio-visual products division, the electronic intermediate system would operate transparently between film input and film output without compromising image quality. The system consists of four basic hardware components: a high-resolution film scanner, image-computing

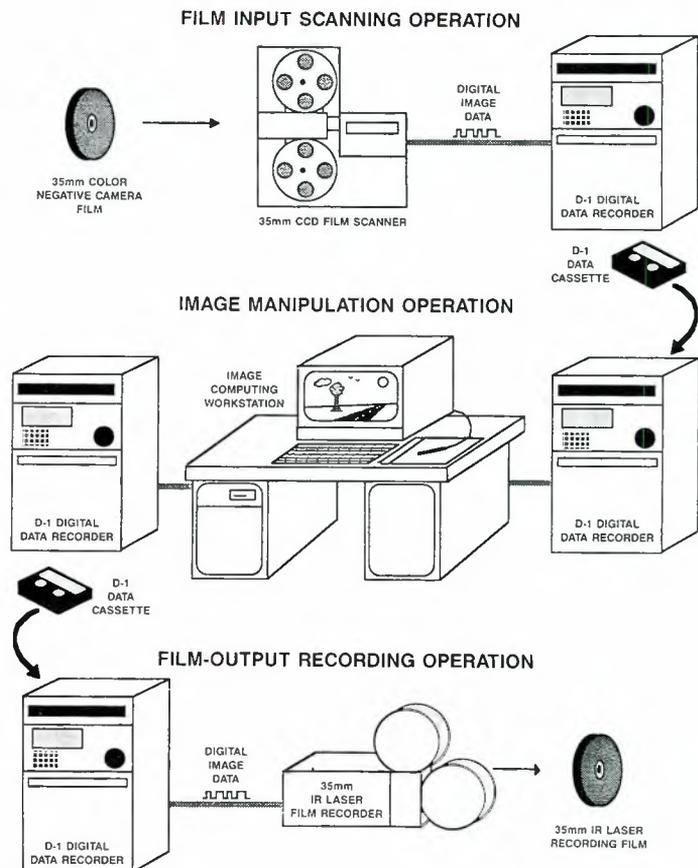


Figure 1. Three primary elements of the electronic intermediate system proposed by Kodak at SMPTE.

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But of course, big ideas also come in small packages. The LDK 91, a lightweight, easy-to-handle ENG/EPF camera, is the LDK 910's portable companion. Singled out by *Broadcast Engineering* magazine as one of the ten "Pick Hits" of NAB '89, it has the same CCD sensor and the same top picture quality as the LDK 910.

Together, these fully compatible CCD cameras will make your old ideas about picture quality go right down the tubes. For complete information and technical specifications on the new LDK 910 and LDK 91, call BTS at 1 800-562-1136, ext. 11.

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workstation, digital data recorder and high-resolution film recorder. (See Figure 1.)

The first application for the system would be the creation of visual effects, such as compositing image components, including live action, traveling mattes, miniatures, matte paintings, animation, text and computer-generated graphics. Also, the system could be used for color grading, altering contrast and brightness ratios, reducing or enhancing grain to achieve a particular look, removing scratches and dirt, and sharpness enhancement.

Kodak researchers say the electronic intermediate system must have between 2,000 and 3,000 scanning lines per picture height for an Academy aperture 35mm film frame to produce a duplicate negative that matches the original film. This exceeds the resolution characteristics of the 1125/60 HDTV system by a factor of at least two.

C. Bradley Hunt, director of advanced technologies planning for Kodak's motion picture and audio-visual products division, said, "In effect, when 35mm film is transferred to any of the proposed high-definition television systems, the image information is funneled through a low-pass

filter, which reduces resolution, color and dynamic range to fit the constraints of the television recording and display devices."

Hunt also pointed out that conventional HDTV systems are required to operate in real time, but not the intermediate system proposed for film work.

"HDTV is a technological breakthrough, but the fact is that it is locked into operating in real time at 30 images per second. ... To construct a real-time video system with all of the image quality of film would require a quantum leap in high-speed image sensors, processing and storage technology."

The system proposed by Kodak is envisioned to process images to and from film at approximately one frame per second.

Film: still kicking

The future of HDTV in the film industry remains uncertain. Film is a superb medium. It is portable, requires very little power, can be strapped to the wing of an airplane, can be edited on a flatbed that you can rent on any street corner in Hollywood, and has a long, long life. Plus, film quality continues to improve. The newest generation of 35mm films are able to take maximum advantage of natural light, which has many practical and artistic

benefits. Further improvements in sensitivity, image sharpness and grain are likely in the near future.

Along these lines, Kodak also announced the *Keycode* number system, a film that contains machine-readable edge numbers. The system is being tested on a variety of commercial projects. It is expected to be available to customers within a few months. Keycode data will make it possible to simplify many film-handling and editing operations during post-production.

The system also offers new opportunities for the film industry. For example, programs shot on 35mm film today might be re-released in an HDTV format five or 10 years from now. With the Keycode system, the original video edit list could be used to assemble the program directly in the new video format.

In a related move, Kodak and Rank Cintel announced plans to commercialize an experimental CCD HDTV telecine developed by Kodak Research Laboratories, for transferring film to any of the proposed high-definition standards, including 1050/59.94, 1125/60 and 1250/50 HDTV.

Film will continue to be the dominant production medium for prime-time TV

Continued on page 95

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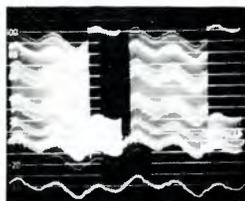
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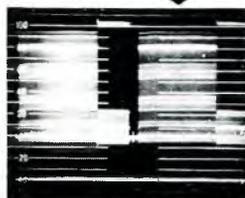
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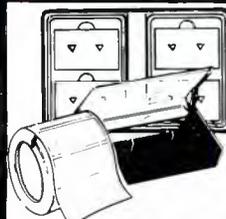
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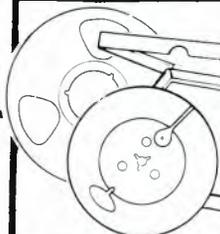


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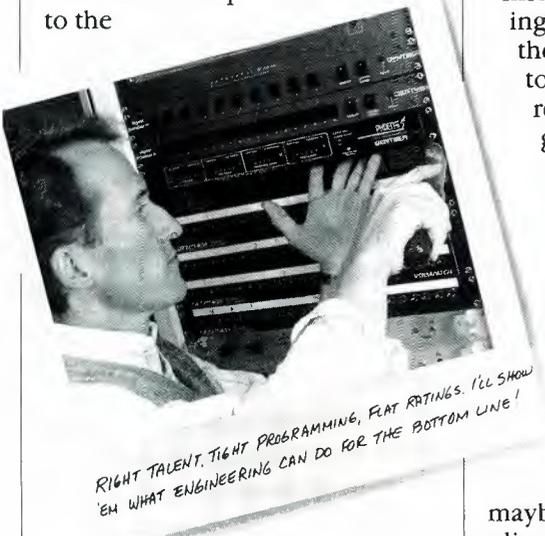
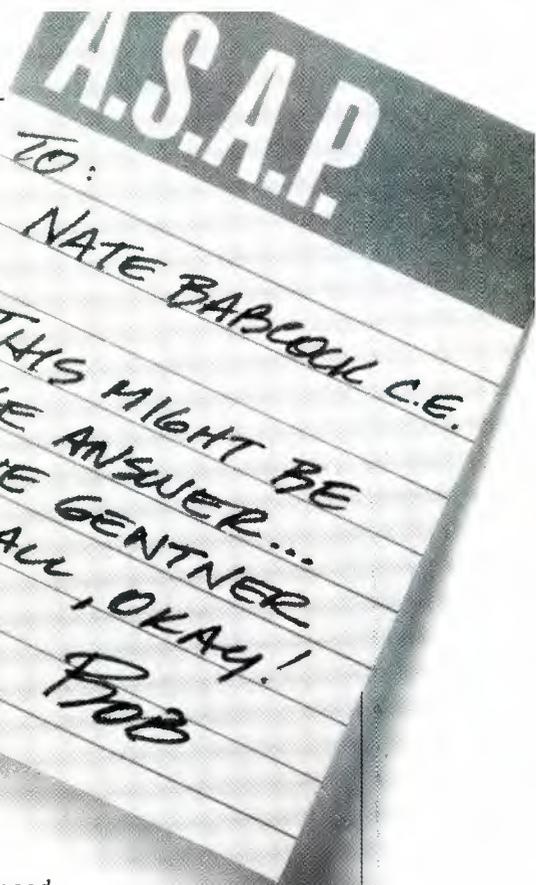
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SBE: Labcoats to laptops

By the BE staff

Outstanding might best describe the 1989 SBE convention. More than 3,000 attendees and exhibitors joined forces in Kansas City, MO, to create the most successful SBE show to date.

Many elements combined to make the show a winner. From the well-attended reception on Thursday night to the full-house banquet and entertainment on Saturday night, the convention planners showed that they knew how to make attendees and exhibitors happy.



The 25th anniversary logo and lighted arch signaled the entrance to the exhibit floor.

This year's scheduling was designed carefully to meet the needs of both attendee and exhibitor, allowing exclusive time for seminars and exclusive time for exhibits. The non-overlapping scheduling was greeted with enthusiasm by both factions.

The Thursday night reception combined refreshments, live entertainment and hardware in a casual setting. What more could an engineer want?

Labcoats, laptops and lapel pins

The white coats are coming, the white



coats are coming! Friday's luncheon flaunted a new look: white labcoats sporting the special SBE 25th anniversary logo. The coats were provided to attendees complete with lunch, drink and dessert. One engineer remarked that it looked more like a hospital than an engineering exhibition.

It paid to stay until the show's end because prizes were awarded daily on the exhibit floor. The featured prize was a Zenith laptop computer, which was given away at the Saturday night banquet. Other prizes were awarded at the ham reception, which was sponsored by Fidelipac.

Special commemorative lapel pins were presented to those who attended the Saturday night banquet. The pin was designed by **Broadcast Engineering** graphic designer, Stephanie Swail. A unique pin design for each convention will become an SBE tradition. The original pin now promises to become a collector's item.

Ennes workshops

Convention activities actually began on Wednesday, the day before the official opening of the show. Special Wednesday workshops were conducted by the Ennes Foundation. A total of eight workshops were coordinated by Don Borchert, director of engineering at WHA-TV, Madison, WI.

Six of the workshops were presented by equipment manufacturers. The sessions provided hands-on, equipment-specific training. In these sessions, everything from transmitters to graphic systems to test equipment was on hand and operational for the training. The workshops allowed manufacturers to train potential and current owners on the maintenance and operation of their hardware.

Having the working hardware in the sessions allowed the simulation of sample problems. The sessions were designed to condense into a single day, the same training an engineer might receive at a factory school.

The two other sessions, AM/FM antenna systems and management for engineers, rounded out the Ennes work-



New products kept attendee interest high and the exhibit floor traffic brisk throughout the convention.

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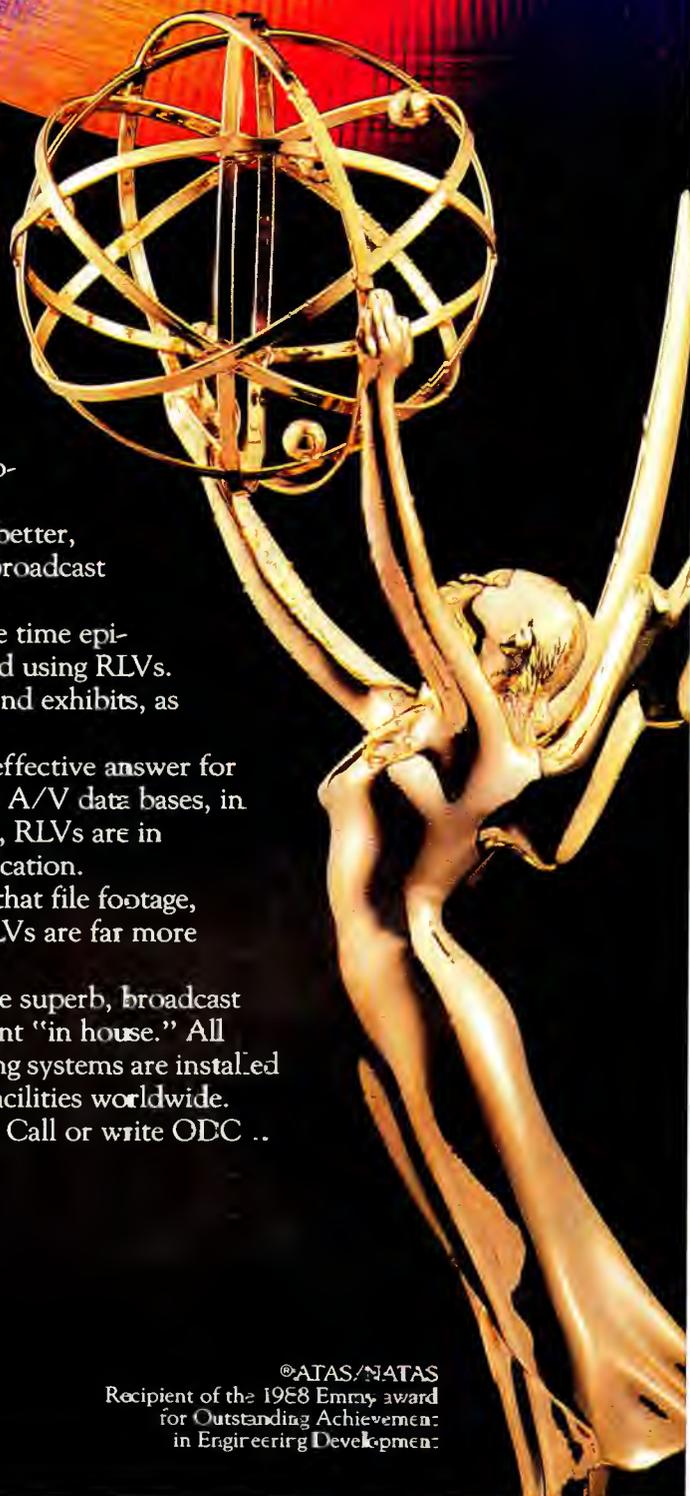
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shops. The antenna session, coordinated by consulting engineer Don Markley, was filled to overflowing. The management session was presented by Brad Dick. Companies presenting workshops included: Ampex, Broadcast Electronics, Grass Valley/Dubner, Harris, Mitchell/Vo-Tech and Sony.

Outstanding seminars

Continuing his tradition of top-quality seminars, John Battison assembled four days of speakers and sessions. The sessions

lasted all day Thursday, Friday and Saturday, concluding with a half-day session on Sunday.

Broadcast engineers need to be kept up-to-date on the industry, and Thursday's opening sessions did just that. Issues ranging from the entry of the telcos into signal transport to broadcasting's future were debated before a full house.

Tony Farry, Bell Atlantic, discussed ways broadcasters and telcos can cooperate. He noted that, instead of it being a win/lose situation, the broadcaster can benefit from

the telephone companies' offer of a direct link into the homes of their audiences. In addition, because of the increased bandwidth, broadcasters can seek additional markets through new products.

Farry described his company's progress in replacing copper telephone cable with fiber. He noted that Bell Atlantic is upgrading 72,000 miles of copper with fiber every year. In Washington, DC, and Pittsburgh, 80% of all offices are connected with fiber.

The opportunities for broadcasters are tremendous, he said. An 8-city trial of a switched network distribution system organized by Bellcore was scheduled to begin in late 1989. He predicted that the test

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The SBE convention is unique in that the booths are staffed by engineers and technical representatives. Here, several attendees wait their turn to try a hands-on demonstration with working hardware.



Session rooms were packed to standing room only for the entire four days.

was just the first example of what could be done with fiber.

The engineering audience remained suspicious about the telcos' call to share opportunities. Some complained about already-high prices. Farry said that he had no immediate solutions to the prohibitive prices some broadcasters now find when seeking audio transport.

Wally Johnson, of Moffett, Larson & Johnson, reviewed an issue dear to the hearts of many broadcast engineers: regulation. He noted that deregulation has not stopped, although the pace of change seems to be lessening. Johnson cautioned engineers, however, that the quality of AM service has again begun to diminish. The



The Saturday night banquet was the highlight of the convention's celebration. The event was complete with awards, prizes and entertainment.

issue concerns more than just signal interference. Johnson noted that the land on which many AM transmitters are located is worth more than the stations themselves. Such situations make it difficult to justify continued operation.

Other Thursday sessions included discussions on automation, EBS and hardening broadcast facilities. Based on attendee response, the Thursday papers got the convention off to a fine start.

Sessions continued through Sunday morning. The Friday morning sessions, which began at 8 a.m., ended at 10 a.m. when the exhibit floor opened. The sessions resumed at 3 p.m. and continued until 6 p.m. Concurrent radio and TV sessions were held both Friday and Saturday. Night-owl sessions were held Thursday and Friday evenings.



Attendees, eager to witness the latest in broadcast equipment, strain for a better look at this booth's offerings.



SBE's first president, John Battison, and current president, Brad Dick, celebrated the society's 25th anniversary with a large birthday cake.

Saturday banquet

The Kansas City convention provided the attendees with several firsts. The Saturday night banquet, a first-class event, complete with entertainment, was perhaps the most talked-about. SBE Fellowships were presented to past president, Jack McKain and past vice-president, Bob Van Buhler. The featured speaker was Lex Felker, former chief, Mass Media Bureau, FCC. He addressed the audience on the importance of HDTV to broadcasters.

Another high point of the evening was the celebration of the society's 25th anniversary. A special anniversary cake was cut by the first SBE president, John Battison, and the current president, Brad Dick.

A laptop computer was given away to winner Dave Sawyer, C.E. at KIUL-AM, Garden City, KS. To be eligible to win, attendees were to visit exhibitors' booths and have their bingo cards stamped. Once the cards were filled, they were deposited in the entry box for the drawing. Sawyer

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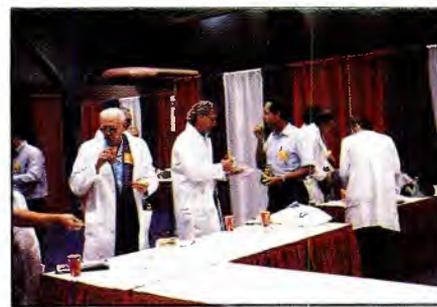
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went home wiser from attending the sessions, but also richer with the Zenith laptop computer.

The banquet culminated with entertainment provided by comedian Calvin Coolidge, a fifth cousin to this nation's 30th president of the same name. He was well-received and completed his act to a standing ovation. Dick said Coolidge was chosen to entertain at the banquet because he "wanted to show everyone that engineers can have fun too."

Kudos all around

It was no secret that some stood on the sidelines waiting to see whether the 1989



The white labcoats proved to be a big hit among attendees. The coats went to those who attended the Friday exhibit floor luncheon.

SBE convention could rebound from last year. It did. The only ones unhappy after this convention were the exhibitors and attendees who stayed home.

Both exhibitors and attendees greeted the new exclusive scheduling of seminars and exhibit time with enthusiasm. The schedule allowed the attendee to devote attention to the technical sessions, knowing that plenty of time was reserved for the exhibit hall. Exhibitors knew that when the hall was open, there would be plenty of traffic. An additional plus was that the scheduling provided the opportunity for exhibitors to attend the seminars. The same formula is planned for next year in St. Louis.



The organization's first members were honored with a special "charter member" lapel pin. Here, Battison awards a charter member pin to consulting engineer, Vir James.

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Planned success

The event was planned carefully to provide attendees with three important features. First, the convention provided topical and useful seminars — the kind of information not always available at other shows. Second, the convention provided a venue where exhibitors and attendees could assemble to discuss equipment and station needs. Also, the SBE convention combined everything into a first-class, cost-effective and fun package.

The formula worked. The show received



The SBE booth usually was packed with members vying for information and a chance to try the new certification computer software.

a positive rating from more than 92% of the attendee survey respondents. According to the attendee survey, more than 83% of those who attended in 1989 plan to attend the St. Louis show next year.

SBE officials already are planning for a repeat of the 1989 success. This year's convention will be in St. Louis, Oct. 4-7. For more information on the SBE convention, call 317-842-0394.

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Proceedings for sale

The *SBE Proceedings* was presented to each attendee as a part of the registration fee. This year's *Proceedings* contains most of the papers presented and runs about 300 pages. The book has become a must-have tool for many en-

gineers throughout the country.

Limited editions of *Proceedings* from previous years (1986-1988) are available from the SBE national office. Contact the national office for more information.

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January 1990 *Broadcast Engineering* 93

Continued from page 48

Up in the sky

The 2GHz microwave signal is received by the hemispherical antenna attached to NOMAD, then block-converted to a VHF frequency in the 230MHz to 350MHz band. This signal is then passed through a line driver and coupled to an RG-59U coaxial downlead. The other end of the downlead is attached to the ground station, where the downconverted VHF channels are split off from the command signals and dc on the cable, and then upconverted to their respective 2GHz microwave frequencies. Each signal is then demodulated by a standard microwave receiver.

The baseband signals are then routed to one of three triax modulators at the ground station, from where they travel to the base station in the mobile support unit. From there, the signals are demodulated back to baseband video and audio.

In the opposite direction (production unit to camera), the director's audio, camera command and vertical-locking signals are combined, then multiplexed in the triax base station, and sent to the ground station, below the balloon. The ground station may be as far away as 5,000 feet from the golf support unit.

This allows flexibility in choosing balloon launch sites.

At the ground station, the command data modulates a low-frequency subcarrier, combined with the director's audio and the dc power source, and sent up the coaxial cable to the NOMAD. The dc is split off and used to power the NOMAD. The audio and data signals are then transmitted over the 950MHz command frequency, to the receive antennas on the golf carts.

On the cart is a 950MHz receiver where the audio and data signal are demodulated and routed to the triax base station, and sent to the camera adapter. At the adapter, the data and director's audio are separated and sent to their respective circuits.

Gen-lock is achieved in two stages. A vertical lock signal is derived from the blackburst reference and is transmitted by embedding a frame rate pulse in the control data, which is sent to the camera on the 950MHz command link. Horizontal and subcarrier lock signals are derived in the triax base stations from the incoming reference.

Simple, really

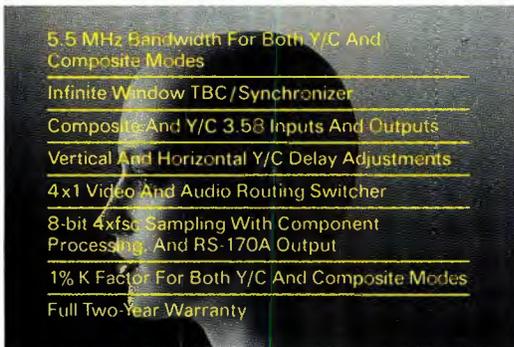
Although this system seems technical-complex, it has the advantage of re-

quiring no special training on the part of the operators. The camera is a standard triax hand-held familiar to virtually every camera operator. No special peripheral equipment must be added to the camera operator's load, an important consideration during long, hot tournaments in August. The golf carts offer unlimited mobility, getting to difficult locations quickly, and transporting personnel to safety during sudden thunderstorms. The balloon package requires a single downlead, and can be simply raised or lowered by a power winch. If a crane is used, operation is simpler still. All system interconnects are made via commonly used triax cable, reducing setup time.

Effects audio, communications, tally and camera control are all maintained by wireless signal paths. Frequency conservation is achieved by using only one 950MHz channel for command of all three cameras.

Acknowledgments: The author would like to thank Don Brown of the ABC RF operations department, who led the design and development effort on this project, and who contributed his technical expertise to this article. 

Left Brain Specs. Right Brain Effects.



Two Views On ALTA's New Wideband TBC/Synchronizer.

The left brain. It's analytical, technological, specifications-driven. And the right brain? It is a creative and colorful territory where great specs are just a means to great effects.

ALTA's new Cygnus 5.5 wideband TBC/Synchronizer is made for both. On the left, the impressive set of better-than-broadcast quality specs is unparalleled for the price. On the right, just look at the dazzling array of special effects. Picture freeze. Strobe. Variable colorization, mosaics and posterization.

With its left brain logic, right brain magic and modest \$5950 price tag, the Cygnus 5.5 is another single-minded demonstration of ALTA's "Technology Of Value" at work. Call or write.

ALTA Group, Inc., 555 Race Street, San Jose, CA 95126, FAX 408/297-1206. TEL 408/297-2582.



Circle (78) on Reply Card

News

Continued from page 4

SMPTTE and holds a lifetime general radiotelephone operator's license.

Nationwide fiber-optic TV trials commence

The first field trials of fiber-optic networks for broadcast television has already begun with ABC's transmission of live television from New York to seven cities across the United States at the beginning of December.

Coordinated by Bellcore, the five consecutive trials will use coast-to-coast fiber optic (and, perhaps in the future, microwave) links to test how efficiently network TV studios can broadcast programming to affiliate stations using a land-based alternative to satellite.

Each of the five major TV broadcasters (ABC, CBS, Fox, NBC and PBS) will have exclusive use of the trial networks established between Atlanta, Boston, Indianapolis, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, New York, St. Louis and Washington for up to

three months. Approximately 50 TV stations, manufacturers, suppliers, interexchange carriers and exchange carriers are participating.

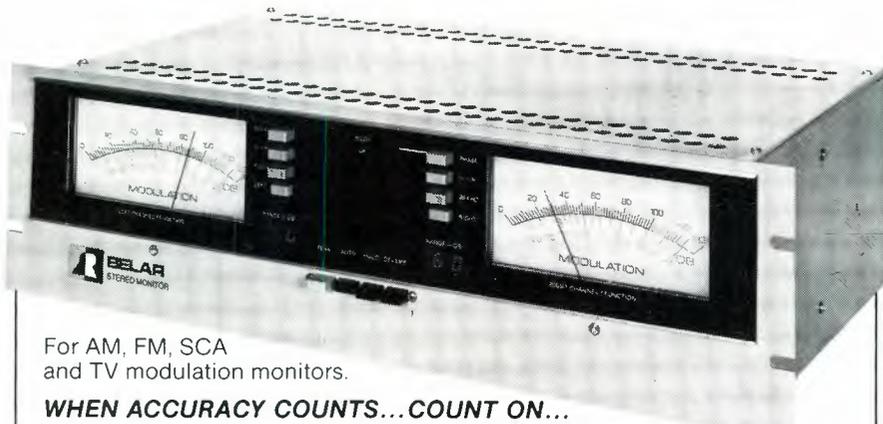
Conventional TV signals are being transmitted at 45Mb/second (DS3 rate) on these networks. The signals travel over a 2-way, tree branch-like network that permits broadcasters to distribute programming simultaneously to any number of affiliate stations and receive programming from those affiliates individually.

There are five forces that drive the DS3 video trials:

1. The cost of a DS3 channel on fiber is declining as new technology allows more programming and telecommunications traffic to be carried on a single fiber.
2. Fiber availability is increasing. Approximately 300 cities can be connected by fiber optics and are capable of transmitting video at the DS3 rate.
3. Several TV broadcasters are already using DS3 channels, although limited to collection of program footage between two dedicated locations.
4. Availability of space on satellites is limited. Satellites in orbit today are aging and

few additional commercial ones are likely to be launched in the near future.

5. There are significant additional transmission advantages, which include near-instantaneous customizing of a program's destinations, lack of signal interference, security from unauthorized receivers, multiple simultaneous audio channel capability and the flexibility to make every network affiliate a program source.



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unique advantages to the television broadcaster:

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Circle (100) on Reply Card

www.americanradiohistory.com

New products

Weather graphics

By Accu-Weather

• **Amiga Graphics software:** upgrade for fast-frame loops from satellite imagery, scripted graphic downloading, full-screen graphics displays; 9,600 baud and improved communications with Front Door unit; operates with The Director and The Director Toolkit software.

Circle (350) on Reply Card

Weather data service

By Accu-Weather

• **National Weather Summary:** service in National Weather Service (NWS) format; highlights major weather events in United States and extremes around the world during the preceding six to 12 hours; accessible at 9,600 baud and 19.2kbaud data rates; replaces part of service discontinued by NWS.

Circle (351) on Reply Card

Audio hard disk recorder

By Alpha Audio Automation

• **DR-2 disk recorder:** Winchester-based

digital audio recorder; control system emulates typical 2-track analog recorder; 60-minute, 16-bit stereo capacity at 44.1kHz or 48kHz sampling; time-code capable; RS-422 serial ports connect to editing equipment; subframe job, shuttle and crossfade.



Circle (352) on Reply Card

Production switcher

By ALTA Group

• **Pegasus:** video switcher system in 3-bus architecture, keying with multilevel transitions to four video levels; 8-input with linear or hard key and optional RGB modes; wide Y/C, component capability; optional serial interface to editing controllers.

Circle (353) on Reply Card

Tape storage system

By Ampex Recording Media

• **Hanger caps:** enhancement for storage/rail system for Betacam/SP cassettes; snap-on device with retractable clip also adapts to non-Ampex storage systems; single storage rail holds 33 Betacam shippers or 28 U-matic cassettes; hanger caps increase Betacam storage to 38 units per rail.

Circle (354) on Reply Card

Lavalier microphones

From Audio Intervisual Design

• **COS-11, COS-12:** cylindrical and flat lavalier microphones; highly omnidirectional response in ultraminiature size; COS-11 offers dynamic range of 93dB from 40Hz-12kHz in 4mm×11.5mm package; COS-12 is 2.7mm×6.8mm×13.4mm, with 97dB range over 40Hz-20kHz; produced from joint venture between Sanken and NHK.

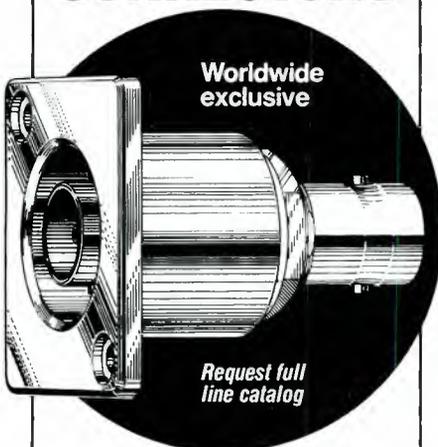
Circle (355) on Reply Card

Tape measurement

By Audio Services Corporation

• **Nagra tape timer:** clear, credit card-

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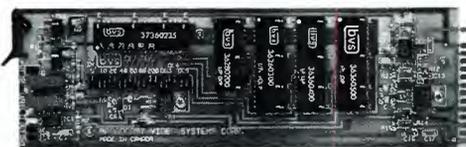
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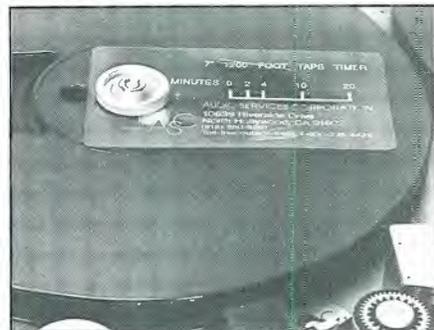
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sized plastic device, slips over feed reel of audio recorder; allows a quick determination of the amount of time remaining on the reel; calibrated for 1/4-inch tape on 7 inch, 1,200-foot reel operating at 7 1/2-inch/second.



Circle (356) on Reply Card

Video inserters

By Audio-Visual Systemes (AVS)

- **S161 series:** superimpose messages and graphics onto video images; meets NTSC, PAL and SECAM standards; several models display message from integral memory or from external data source, symbols or logos, time of day, LTC with user bits or audio VU meter.

Circle (357) on Reply Card

Bench power supply

By B&K Precision/Maxtec Int'l

- **Model 1646:** dc power supply for 10A current maximum overvoltage range of 0Vdc-16Vdc; coarse and fine voltage setting controls; closely regulated output current can be set to a current limit for constant voltage applications; overload/short-circuit, reverse polarity and overvoltage protected.



Circle (358) on Reply Card

Portable terminal

By BASYS

• **BASYS PET:** portable editing terminal compatible with BASYS newsroom computer systems; software for IBM PC or compatible laptop system; portable or remote computer becomes a field extension of the newsroom system.

Circle (359) on Reply Card

Fiber-optical planning

By Bellcore

• **Fiber options:** software for IBM PC; assists in designing cost-effective networks; calculate costs of varying architectures, maintenance; separate modules design network topology, DS3-level demands and network cost calculation.

Circle (360) on Reply Card

High-output microphones

By beyerdynamic

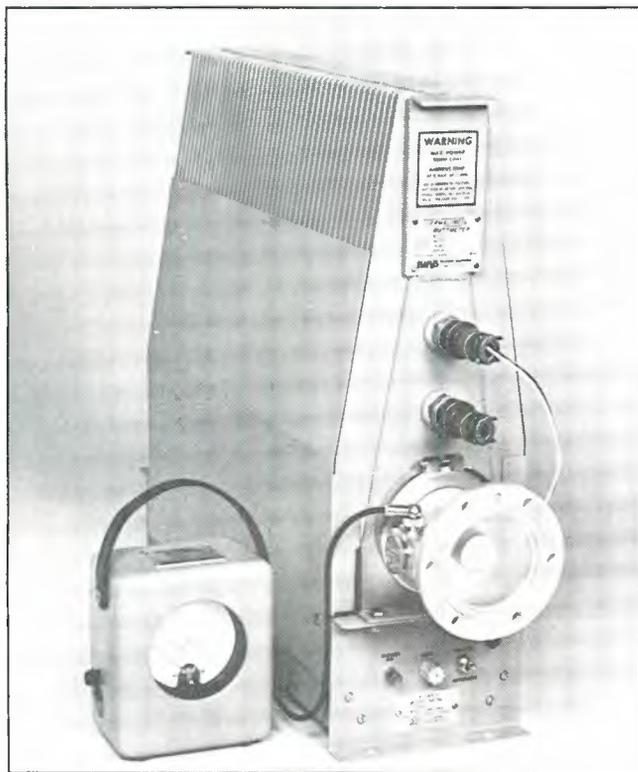
• **TG-X series:** high-decibel output microphones for live concert use; EM-field rare earth magnets (neodymium) achieve high output and transient response with ribbon mic, lighter diaphragm for minimal mass; four models to 140dB SPL levels.

Circle (361) on Reply Card

Absorption wattmeters

By Bird Electronic

• **TERMALINE wattmeters:** high-power ratings from 1.5kW to 10kW over the 54MHz-890MHz frequency range; combined measuring and terminating unit for 50 communications systems; 3 1/8" EIA flanged, unflanged connectors; convection and forced-air types.



Circle (362) on Reply Card

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Circle (88) on Reply Card

Talent prompting

By Blue Feather Company

- **Featherweight 14:** monochrome teleprompter display weighs 25 pounds with twice the viewing area of a typical 9-inch display; operation compatible with Blue Feather PC-based teleprompting software; package includes universal mounting bracket.

Circle (363) on Reply Card

Editor upgrade

By CMX

- **CMX 300 software:** package includes slo-mo control for dynamic tracking VTRs; fit/fill calculates speed to compress or expand material to fit time slot; auto-split edits; match-cut/match-frame search in EDL; channel assign swaps source, record VTRs; auto-clean removes duplicate edits.

Circle (364) on Reply Card

Safe area generators

By Broadcast Video Systems

- **SA-103:** four independent channels, each programmable for safe action, safe title, center cross, blanking markers, a character slate generator and 10s count-down clock; unit controlled from 16-button keypad.
- **Model SA-102:** portable generator in 3×3×7/8-inch box; switch selects cross-hatch pattern, safe action and title functions.

Circle (365) on Reply Card

Transmission line connector

By Cablewave Systems

- **Inner connector expansion:** replaces standard bullet anchor inner connector typically used with rigid line-section transmission line; reduces center conductor galling from thermal or other environmentally caused movement.



Circle (366) on Reply Card

VTR emulator

By Cipher Digital

- **Model 4815 Phantom II:** a VTR emulator with protocol conversion, synchronizer and time-code reader functions; editing systems using Ampex, Sony or CMX protocol interface to any parallel interfacing audio or video transport, including newer digital tape and DAT; communication to editing system through RS-422 port.

Circle (367) on Reply Card

Editing enhancement

By Editing Machines

- **30-frame capability:** enhancement allowing editing operator to see every frame of recorded material in digital off-line editing system; upgrade includes a high-speed digital signal processor to enhance image compression and decompression; approximately 1-hour capacity of recorded material can be placed on each optical disk in medium-resolution mode; dedicated keyboard, RT11 compatibility and expanded list management also available.

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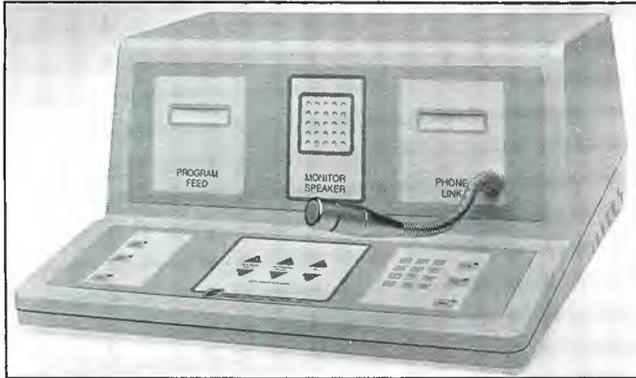
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Circle (89) on Reply Card

Satellite audio terminal

By Corporate Computer Systems

• **V DAT audio terminal:** digital signal processor provides two full duplex audio paths, one duplex data path on 112Kb VSAT data channel; packaged in desktop console with XLR connectors; designed for radio operations.



Circle (369) on Reply Card

Digital encoder/decoder

By Dolby Laboratories

• **Model 500:** uses adaptive transform coding compression; unit codes two audio channels at 128kb/second per channel, one-sixth that of standard 16-bit linear PCM; dynamic range is not limited; allows two hours of music on 3-inch CD.



Circle (370) on Reply Card

Electronic art system

By Electronic Graphics

• **Pastiche:** electronic graphic art system; 2-D paint and animation, real-time cut-out manipulation; optional 3-D modeling, animation package; 4-D effects mapping, animation module.

Circle (371) on Reply Card

Electronic enclosures

By Egipto Electronics

• **Challenger enclosure series:** vertical rack systems available in two widths, four depths, 32 heights; console units with three slopes; low profiles; 132 standard and nine trim colors as well as custom-color schemes.

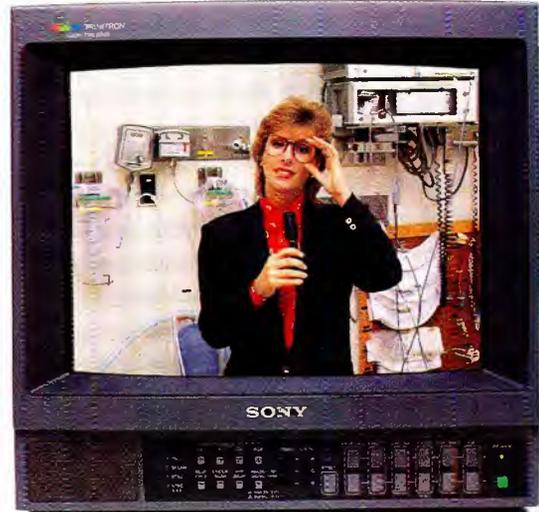
Circle (372) on Reply Card

Signal distribution and switching

By ETI

• **M/SAT system:** multiple switching for automated test; model 100 rack-mount controller with model 200 switch racks; 15 switch racks containing 195 modules, control 1,560 circuits; manual or remote-control capability; LCD display of status; model 300 combines control and switching, expanding from six modules to eight racks.

Circle (373) on Reply Card



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By Electro Insulation

• **Micro-Care Spec-Clean:** solvent dispenser for a variety of PC board cleaning uses; trigger-activated container supplies solvent through a brush on the trigger-grip activator; non-flammable anti-static solvent is applied directly to area needing cleaning with little waste.



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Voice network analyzer

From HUB Material Company

• **Metro Tel VNA70:** analyzer with multimeter, transmission test-set capabilities; LCD panel displays ac/dc volts, loop current, line polarity, dB level, signal frequency; autoranging with true rms accuracy, -44dBm to 125Vac.

Circle (375) on Reply Card

Video decoders and switchers

By INLINE

• **IN2095, IN2096:** interfaces for NTSC, S-VHS video to RGB+S monitor or video display systems; adjustable color, brightness, contrast levels, hue, peaking controls; can be used with digitizing boards.

• **IN3510, IN3520:** utility RGB+S switchers providing 4-in×1-out or 6-in×1-out; front-panel, hard-wire remote or RS-232 control; 200MHz video bandwidth; selects among various sources to a single projector or monitor.

Circle (376) on Reply Card

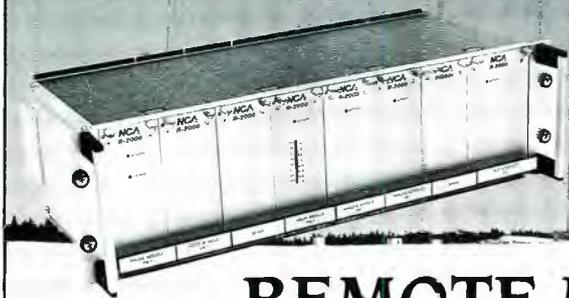
Wireless cable and ITFS

By ITS

• **1510D, 1610D:** 20W transmitters for MDS and MMDS/ITFS/OFS services; integrated BTSC multichannel sound modulators; interfaces for remote control, telemetry; front-panel status, metering.

Circle (377) on Reply Card

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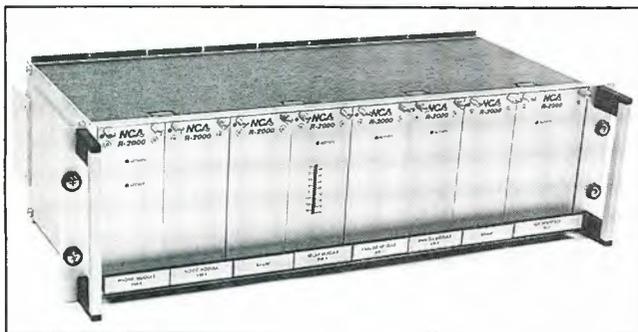
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• **R-2000**: transmitter monitor and remote controller; operates on standard dial-up telco line using DTMF touch-tone commands; synthesized voice responses; local LCD display, keypad; 32 inputs, either analog or digital; alarm reporting cycles through four phone numbers until the system receives acknowledgement.



Circle (378) on Reply Card

Audio noise control

By Furman Sound

• **QN-44 quad noise gate**: update of QN-4A unit adds attack control to each channel; low-noise, low-distortion, gain-control element gives simple, direct audio path; each channel discriminates and suppresses low-level noise in signals rising above a preset threshold level; available in balanced or unbalanced configurations.

Circle (379) on Reply Card

Modular utility products

By J.N.S. Electronics

• **The FRAME**: series of A/V DAs, audio monitor amps; 10 modules fit in one rack frame; functions include audio fail sense, stereo presence/validity, program changeover and RF demodulation.

Circle (380) on Reply Card

Speaker systems

By JBL Professional

• **4832A, 4835A**: concert series diffraction monitors; 2-way, high SPL stage monitors using 12-inch or 15-inch low-frequency vented-gap cooling and 2-inch neodymium compression driver with diffraction horn for 180° horizontal pattern; housings are birch ply with fiberglass coating.

• **4688 sub-bass system**: triple-chamber, tuned enclosure uses two 18-inch transducers mounted face-to-face and wired with opposing polarity for push-pull effect; operation down to 25Hz.

Circle (381) on Reply Card

D2 and 601 products

By Leitch Video International

• **DIG-220**: 4:2:2 digital component test generator with 10-bit resolution.

• **STG-2520**: D2 generator with 10-bit resolution in D2 and analog formats.

• **DFS-3020N**: D2 frame synchronizers with D2 input/output and analog outputs.

• **DSM-7150**: digital signal monitor for troubleshooting D2 or CCIR 601 digital signal paths.

Circle (382) on Reply Card

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January 1990 *Broadcast Engineering* 105

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A/V carts

By Jensen Tools

- **Utility carts:** no-maintenance equipment carts, constructed of Duramold; load rating to 400 pounds; 24"W×36"L or 16"W×30"L, both stand 32.5" high and have an optional middle shelf.

Circle (383) on Reply Card

S-VHS editing VCRs

By JVC Professional Products

- **BR-S811U:** S-VHS format editor; chroma enhancement, cross-talk canceling circuitry; tape-stabilizing head drum eliminates tape vibration, impedance roller controls jitter; rotary erase heads, blanking switcher, framing servo; composite, Y/C inputs/outputs with Y/C-358 and Y/C-629; balanced XLR audio connectors.

- **BR-S611U:** recorder, player without insert edit circuitry; source VCR for editing system; includes enhanced circuitry of BR-S811U for improved fidelity over several generations.



Circle (384) on Reply Card

Digital audio editor

By Lexicon

- **Lexicon Opus/e:** digital audio editing system; operates as stand-alone unit or with existing mixers; upgradable to full Opus production system or serves as satellite workstation; offers multitrack crossfading to eight tracks simultaneously; 30 editing operations with unrestricted number or placement of edits.

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Power conditioning

By Liebert

- **Datawave:** 50kVA, 75kVA rated systems, redesigned and down-sized to fit into computer rooms; 3-phase magnetic-synthesized, computer-grade power; accommodates 40% low-line condition, 200% overload, non-linear loads; compensates severe phase imbalances.

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Upgradable editing

By Quanta Editing Products & Calaway Engineering

- **CE-25:** 2-VTR, cuts-only edit controller; full expansion to CE-200 8-VTR system; disk-loadable system compatible to CMX and Grass Valley EDL; integral 3.5-inch disk, preview switcher, English display macros; A/V split editing, auto assembly; on-board help menus.

- **CE-75:** 3-VTR editor offers A/B roll with full expansion to CE-200 system; loadable system is CMX, Grass Valley compatible; includes all features of CE-25.

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Frame synchronizer/time base corrector

By I.DEN

• **IVT-7:** compatible with Y/C358 (Super VHS, Hi-8), composite video and Y688. Infinite window correction enables it to be used with domestic VCRs and cameras and permit frame and field freeze. A built-in DOC, ± 20 times shuttle handling and 1H to +2H chroma line shift are standard. It has an ACC circuit, compensating for low chroma level inputs. It is one-rack-unit high and comes with rack ears.



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PC-based editing system

By M&R Data Services

• **Ensemble series:** A/B roll editing system with switcher interface, Macro capability, auto-assemble, match calculation and mixed format editing; PC-based system includes context sensitive help screens; SC-1 parallel interface allows operation with Panasonic AG-7500A, Sony VO-5800/5850 and JVC CR-850 VCRs.

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Synchronizer and automation interface

By Motionworks

• **Motionworker:** interface to integrate console automation, transport synchronizers and MIDI systems; enables engineering control of many functions from the console automation computer; can be controlled from external time code or MIDI code in tapeless studio; communicates with Audio Kinetics ES-bus, Lynx VSI, Adam Smith 2600/Zeta 3, SSL G/E series, AMEK Mozart/APC systems and GML 2000 automation.

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Precision cables

By Nema Electronics International

• **No. 1570:** precision 75 Ω video coax, similar to RG59/U in size; 0.7dB/100 foot loss at 10MHz.

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Mics and mic stand

By Sennheiser Electronic

• **ME 80/K3U:** supercardioid/lobe, electret condenser unit with shotgun characteristics; K3U power module operates from an internal battery or external phantom power.

• **MKH 50-P48** transformerless, symmetrical transducer mic; supercardioid characteristics with ultralinear frequency response; operates from a phantom power setup.

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Geleco Electronics Corp.	96	82	416/421-5631	Telemetrics, Inc.	54	30	201/427-0347
Gentner Electronics Corp.	48	28,29	801/975-7200	Telex Communications, Inc.	60,65,79	36,43,60	612/887-5550
Gentner Electronics Corp.	87	70,71	801/975-7200	Telmak	66	44	800/637-4540
Graham-Patten Systems, Inc.	76	58	800/547-2489	Total Spectrum Manufacturing, Inc.	81	65	914/268-0100
Grass Valley Group, Inc.	9	6	916/478-3000	Utah Scientific Inc.	51	24	800/453-8782
James Grunder & Associates Inc.	59	35	913/831-0188	Vicon Industries	108	101	516/293-2200
				Videotek, Inc.	71	51	602/997-7523
				Vinten Equipment Inc.	69	50	516/273-9750
				Ward-Beck Systems, Ltd.	BC		416/438-6550
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