

Southern Methodist University

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4/17/74

College of Engineering

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Computer Science Dept. - Dr. Smith

Fine Arts School

Mr. Wingren 827-3224

David Dowe 238-0269

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Jerry Hunt 827-8435

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Talked with Mr. Wingren at his home. Mr. Dowe is or was head of the project (sees him every now and then on Channel 13, local Ed station). The lab is underneath Owenbee Stadium, un-used football stadium. Jerry Hunt also works with the project in the Broadcast Film Dept.

The SMU project is modeled after the San Francisco experiments in TV. Started fairly crude a little over 2 years ago but now use some Texas Instruments equipment and are fairly sophisticated. Mr. Wingren said he followed the project for awhile but stopped because he hadn't time to get too involved.

Talked with Mr. David Dowe

Video Research Center

Broadcast Film Art Division

Meadows School of Art

Southern Methodist University

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He said they have been working on a video synthesizer-image generator for about 3 years. They have built all of their equipment since they couldn't afford to buy commercially available components. One of their students had worked for us in a selling capacity a few years ago so he was acquainted with Computer Image. He's also familiar with Dolphin Productions and knows they use our equipment.

He said their system can use input cameras but doesn't need to. They can distort rasters or generate complex 3-D images that can be rotate on all axis. He described it as an analog computer that was digitally interfaceable and controllable by external voltages. They can generate quadrature phase locked oscillators, manipulate these voltages in a system that is like a music synthesizer and display the resulting images. He also recognized that no available scan converter could convert the resulting image to NTSC standards so they use a Tektronix type 604 monitor and a low light level TV camera. They then use comparators to convert gray scales to colors; claims not to insert color by switching but to have some process that produces continuous colors.

He said something about being in New York and noticing there were many different methods for synthetic coloring. Their system will give a demonstration at Harvard and then at Provo, Utah, could be Brigham Young University, in the next few months.

All publication he mentioned was in the future. There will be something in Film Texas put out by the Texas Film Commission; in Source coming out in late summer and in a book about video art around the country published by the MIT Press.

We agreed to exchange videotapes, they have 4 Sony AV5000, 1/2 inch VTRs.

EJT-amh