

GLOBECOM '85



General Chairman G. Allan Ledbetter presenting his conference committee at the Wednesday evening banquet.

The Global Telecommunications Conference held in New Orleans, Louisiana, December 2-5 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel attracted over 1600 engineers worldwide. A total of 28 countries were represented at the conference. The international flavor of the conference was best summed up by the Technical Program Chairman, Dick P. Dodd from BellSouth Services, "We received 463 papers from 26 different countries. Included in the list of countries participating were several nations who traditionally do not submit papers to the GLOBECOM or ICC conferences. This list included Israel, Poland, Rumania, Yugoslavia, Malaysia, and mainland China. Out of the 463 papers submitted, 311 were selected for presentation."

The theme of the conference—"Communication Technology to Provide New Services"—encompassed a wide range of topics which were featured in 48 technical sessions. The three miniconferences on communication terminals, communication software, and network integration offered their own tutorial as well as technical sessions for each time slot.

The miniconference on communication terminals held its tutorial on "Networking PC's" on Tuesday, December 3. Dr. Marshall D. Abrams of the MITRE Corporation addressed the requirements for communications among personal computers and other host computers.

The communication software tutorial on "Industrial Software Engineering" was held on Wednesday, December 4. The three instructors, Priscilla J. Fowler, Willa K. Ehrlich, and Thomas J. Emerson, were from AT&T Bell Laboratories. The main focus of the one-day tutorial was the problems and solutions encountered in large-scale software development projects.

On Thursday, December 5, the network integration tutorial, "Planning Voice/Data Networks for Office Automation," was held. Dr. Ronald O. Brown of Coopers & Lybrand and Mrs. Christine L. King of GTE were the instructors. A case study was used to give the attendees an opportunity to simulate a network implementation.

In addition to these tutorials, the Quality Assurance Management Committee sponsored a preconference half-day tutorial held on Monday, December 2. Dr. Madhav Phadke of AT&T Bell Laboratories was the instructor for this tutorial titled "Design Tools for Quality and Productivity."

Several well-known corporations, publications, and conferences were among the exhibitors and patrons at GLOBECOM'85. The exhibitors were Antennas for Communications, AT&T Technologies, CIT-Alcatel, Computer Science Press, Elsevier Science Publishers North-Holland Division, GLOBECOM'86, ICC'86, IEEE Communications Society, IEEE INFOCOM'86, ISS'87, John Wiley & Sons, Karkar Electronics, M/A COM Telecommunications Division, NEC America, NETWORKS'86, Northern Telecom, Plenum Publishing Corporation, Rockwell International, Scientific-Atlanta, Telephone Engineer and Management, Teradyne, and Wandel & Glotermann. The patrons included Bell Communications Research, Microtel, Siemens Communications Systems, and South Central Bell.



Pete Fountain during his Wednesday night performance.



Toni W. Ledbetter, Spouses' Activities Chairperson, with the Olympia Brass Band at the Welcome Reception.

Incorporated into the technical program of the conference was the hospitality, music, and food for which New Orleans is so well known. The Monday night welcome reception boasted the world-renowned Olympia Brass Band and Louisiana seafood in the exhibit hall. Following the Wednesday night conference banquet, 700 people were treated to a Pete Fountain concert. The social programs and tours included a French Quarter walking tour, a plantation tour, and even a Creole cooking demonstration. Two extremely popular events were the technical tours to the NASA Michoud Assembly Center and South Central Bell's New Orleans Main Central Office.

At the keynote and awards luncheon on Tuesday, December 3, Mr. F. Duane Ackerman, Vice President-Marketing, Network, and Planning for BellSouth Services, discussed "Major Forces Shaping the Future Development of Communications Technology and the Provisioning of New Services." In his address, Mr. Ackerman discussed five major categories of forces: "First are the major market drivers which I see growing out of continuing technological advancement. Second is the national shift to a service-based economy. Third, public policy. Fourth, competition. And fifth, globalization." In discussing the major force of competition Mr. Ackerman stated, "It is simply imperative that the competi-

tive nature of our business be understood, believed, and felt throughout every part of the industry."

At the conference banquet held Wednesday night, Mr. David S. Rendall, President of TeleTrends, spoke on "The Age of Discontinuity—Its Challenge and Opportunities." In his speech, Mr. Rendall described the "Age of Discontinuity" as "the telecommunications industry moving from the post-industrial age into the information age." He also stated, "... What we are witnessing right now is a fairly rocky transition stage where the telephone company is having to forge a new set of values."

General Chairman, G. Allan Ledbetter of South Central Bell, reflected on the overall success of the conference. "In keeping with the GLOBECOM'85 theme, the topics and featured speakers were selected with the idea of highlighting potential new services, the engineer's role in providing those services, and the tools that the engineer uses in fulfilling his or her role. Our goal was to present the most current and relevant information available in the most useful format possible, while at the same time sharing our city's hospitality, cuisine, and unique attractions with the conference participants. From all indications we succeeded on all points, and I trust that GLOBECOM'85 will have a positive impact on the future development of new communication services."

*Mona K. Draper
Publicity Chairperson
Paul Majoue
Photographer*



(Left to right) David Rendall—Teletrends, John Ryan—AT&T Bell Laboratories, and Ye Peida—Beijing Institute of Post and Telecommunications (Mainland China).