

Symposium Special Exhibits

The conference attendee is offered a change of pace from the "business" of microwaves to a relaxed environment at the special exhibits. Here you can browse as your interests dictate, reviewing historical artifacts at the historical exhibit or high tech, up to date items in the space exhibit. A summary of these exhibits follows.

The Historical Exhibit

This exhibit covers the development of microwave theory, devices, and systems dating back to pre-1900. 1989 will be the 10th anniversary of the exhibit at the symposium. The first collection was made up of mostly borrowed items and was managed by Ted Saad. Today, we have such a large collection that it is housed in a foster-home, the Historical Electronics Museum which is sponsored by Westinghouse, near Baltimore. The main part of the historical exhibit is this "core" collection which has resulted from the donations of many MTT members over the years. There have been over thirty new items added to the collection this year, including nearly a dozen different klystrons and magnetrons. The display has been reorganized to show the historical context of all of the artifacts.

A second major part of the Historical Exhibit is the Monolithic Microwave Integrated Circuits (MMIC) collection under the sponsorship of Bob Pucel of Raytheon. This will be the third year for the MMIC items, hardware and descriptions which are displayed on over 25 panels for viewing. In addition there will be a special collection of about 30 slide-rule type calculation aids used for a variety of applications such as noise figure, reflection coefficients, amplifier design and antenna gain. These will be on temporary loan from Rob Geoffroy of Sanders Associates who has put the collection together.

The Historical Exhibit contains all sorts of hardware, pictures, and various other artifacts which are displayed along with descriptive information. You can get a feel of what it was like before network analyzers, calculators, W-band and CAD. You can see photographs of many of our "senior" members in their earlier years, visit the special reading room and skip through some of the reports and other documentation which led us to the present. Even relax in front of the TV in the video-theater and see a documentary or two on our technology. Many new video tapes are available this year.

The Historical Exhibit will be located in the Catalina room, immediately adjacent to the technical sessions. The adjoining Monterey rooms will be home for the reading and TV viewing areas. This exhibit will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday and from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Thursday.

The "Microwaves Among the Stars" Exhibit

In keeping with our theme this year we have a special exhibit of space-related objects. A unique collection of items on loan from local aerospace companies will be displayed. Hughes Aircraft, TRW, Rockwell International, McDonnell Douglas, and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory have all made commitments to this exhibit. Hughes will display a showcase with models of all of the Hughes Satellites from the early tiny Syncom to the latest designs. An actual Syncom prototype will also be displayed, similar to that shown in the accompanying photograph. TRW will show a model of the TDRSS satellite with associated photographs. Rockwell International will have a model of the GPS satellite and a set of Photo/story panels. McDonnell Douglas will display pictures and other information on their design and involvement in the Space Station. Last, but not least, is the Jet Propulsion Laboratory of NASA which has contributed a variety of items which are related to the many programs in which they have been a part. Video tapes which you might never otherwise see will be among the subjects shown. These will be located in the lobby areas of the convention center and be available for viewing during all open hours.

Syncom II, the world's first synchronous orbit communications satellite, launched from Cape Canaveral on July 26, 1963. A prototype and more information on this history-making satellite and its descendants can be found in the special exhibit area.

