

Re: Parkes hi-resTV tapes of Apollo 11 surface activity

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On 24 Jul 2004 15:57:21 -0700, gene@pad39a.com (Gene Seibel) wrote:

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>*There was a lot of loss of resolution in the crude system used them.*
>*These days the conversion could be made with no perceptible loss of*
>*resolution, and probably enhanced to look even better. I'm sure the*
>*extra 50 frames per second could be interpolated for a very smooth*
>*final product.*

...Hell, if the loss of 50fps meant clearer pics, the loss is far more than acceptable. The problem is that I seriously doubt whoever has the tapes has the playback equipment any longer. Those decks were fucking huge, and while most people have never seen those 2" decks up close, the best shape & size comparison that comes to mind are those old plastic mold machines they had at the World's Fairs in the 60's, where you popped in 50 cents and you actually saw the damn thing injection mold you a dinosaur or whatever object the molds were set for. More people have seen these machines than 2" tape machines.

...Here's what needs to be done:

1) Whoever's going to run the conversion attempt needs to find out whether NASA has the tapes, since Parkes has claimed they don't have them.

2) Then, whoever has them needs to make sure they're not disposed of, and made available once whoever manufactured the original recorder unit is rounded up and talked into participating in the restoration. Their participation is going to be vital in this.

3) Then, in much the same way the Zapruder film was digitally restored, a 10fps digital version needs to be mastered frame-by-frame. Even at just 10fps, this is going to be a *LOT* of frames, and will take significantly longer than the Zapruder film, which was split 8MM and only about 400 frames max.

4) Then, before we even consider motion interpolation – read: contacting ILM regarding the digital methods used to make the AT-AT's look more real than the stop-motion allowed – a 10fps version is released to judge whether that effort is going to be necessary after all.

...I've known for years that the initial 320 line version was cleaner than anything we saw at home. My own experience with TV on the broadcaster's side has soured me with regards to viewing at home – the picture you get even over cable is crap compared to what we got directly off that big dish! On the other hand, cleaning up the A11 footage as is already out there is a nightmare, having done so myself as related to this group on numerous occasions over the years.

Which, of course, does *not* mean that I wouldn't give my left nut and Pat's right one for the honor to work on such a restoration project...:-)

OM

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"No bastard ever won a war by dying for his country. He won it by making the other poor dumb bastard die for his country."	http://www.io.com/~o_m Sergeant-At-Arms Human O-Ring Society
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- General George S. Patton, Jr