Obituaries

Lloyd Thompson

Lloyd Thompson died of a cerebral hemorrhage December 24, 1960 in Kansas City, Missouri at the age of 51. He was Executive Vice President, co-owner and co-founder of The Calvin Company, Kansas City, Missouri.

A member of the SMPTE since 1934, made a Fellow in 1951, a former member of the Board of Governors, Progress Report Chairman for the past five years, he was Editorial Vice President Elect at the time of his death. Lloyd had long served on the Standards Committee and was active in the founding and work of the Association of Cinema Laboratories. He wrote and presented numerous papers for the Society and was the author of many articles for magazines of the industry and other publications interested in things photographic.

He was born at Eskridge, Kansas, the son of a prominent cattleman and rancher of that place. Long before his graduation from Harneyville Rural High School he showed great interest and creativity in things both mechanical and electrical but went on to take a degree in journalism from the University of Kansas at Lawrence in 1932. During his college years he was fascinated with photography as a hobby and became more and more interested in the possibilities of commercial movies as a profession. Using a 16mm Bell & Howell camera he photographed the Kansas University football games in 1931 and 1932 and during his senior year made a commercial motion picture on refrigerators for a Lawrence firm.

He had spent one summer studying photography at Lake Geneva, Indiana, and immediately following graduation in 1932 he came to Kansas City to join forces with Forrest and Betty Calvin who were operating an advertising company. Thus began the producing organization and laboratory now nationally known as The Calvin Company.

The story of the growth of the company is the story of Lloyd Thompson. A firm believer in the future of the direct 16mm method of producing commercial and educational films, he spent long hours at research and experimentation in all the facets of the media. First there was the problem of better photography and processing, better and faster printers, then sound for direct 16mm and the constant struggle to improve its quality. Each year he developed or adapted new machines and processes to better the films and laboratory services. Many of his ideas have become standards for the industry. However, it was characteristic of him that he never said or would want it said now that he alone should take complete personal credit for many of these achievements. He was always fully cognizant and grateful for the cooperative help he had from the men of his company's laboratory and engineering shop as well as many colleagues all over the country.

Truly a pioneer in the 16mm field and constantly working to improve methods, machinery and quality he also believed there was a place for sound on 8mm. In the middle forties he developed and put on the market through his own company, Continental Products Inc., the Movie-Sound-8 projector. This was an 8mm projector with the sound on a disc, started by an electrical impulse on the film. Not satisfied with this, he designed and developed the Movie-Sound-8 with the sound on the film made possible by magnetic striping. This machine was manufactured by the Movie Mite Corporation and later by The Calvin Company. Through the development of these machines Mr. Thompson acquired several patents.

Preferring colored slides to movies for his personal travel pictures he tried many ways to improve them. In 1955 he adapted a camera with a CinemaScope-like lens to make wide-screen slides. The results were beautiful pictures that attracted a great deal of attention.

After twenty five years in the motion-picture business Mr. Thompson in 1957 was invited to become a member of the Motion Picture Pioneers of America. He personally has been the recipient of several awards, as has The Calvin Company.

For twenty-five years, too, his home workshop has been the continuous scene of new ideas on a drafting board, or the "bread-board model" of a bit of new equipment he felt might be interesting to develop. Many were discarded as impractical or unworkable, but there was also a fine percentage of successes. He left several unfinished projects for he believed in the future of the business he loved and the new developments and techniques modern science was making possible for the motion picture and television industry.

John V. L. Hogan

John V. L. Hogan, 70, died December 30, 1960, at his home in Forest Hills, Queens after a long illness. A pioneer in radio, and later in television, he was associated with Lee De Forest in 1906 and assisted him in experiments with the audion and radiophone. From 1908 to 1910, he attended the Sheffield Scientific School at Yale University where he specialized in physics, mathematics and electric waves. From 1910 to 1914, he was telegraph engineer of the National Electric Signaling Co., and in 1912 he founded the Institute of Radio Engineers. During World War I, he assisted in the production of radio outfits for warships and aircraft. In 1918 he was appointed Manager of the International Radio Telegraph Co. and served as Chairman of the Radio Engineers Committee on National Defense. In 1921 he went into business for himself as a consulting engineer and began a long series of experiments in television, frequency-modulation radio and facsimile transmission.

His early interest in television was described in a paper at the Society's 1954 Spring Convention at Washington, D.C., and published in the November 1954 issue of the *SMPTE Journal*. In this paper, "The Early Days of Television," he described the antecedents of modern television from 1875 to 1930. In this paper he mentioned his own broadcasting station W2XR (later, WQXR) over which, as early as 1929, broadcast pictures scanned at 60 lines/frame and 20 frames/sec. Mr. Hogan set 1930 as the date which marked the end of "early" television and the beginning of the modern era of television.

Arthur C. Downes

Arthur C. Downes died February 11, 1961, at the age of 79. He joined the Society in 1927 and was made a Fellow in 1934. He was elected Editorial Vice-President in 1941 and served through 1946. During that time he also served as Chairman of the Board of Editors. He was born in Ipswich, Mass., in 1882, and was graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1904 with the degree of Bachelor of Science.

Following a year spent as a chemist with the Hartford Laboratory Co., he joined National Carbon Co., and remained with that firm at various locations and in various posts until his retirement in 1947. From 1925 until his retirement he was head of the firm's Research and Development Laboratory. In 1928 he was presented with an award by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for his work in illumination research. Scientific societies of which he was a member included the Illuminating Engineering Society, where he held the rank of Fellow, the American Chemical Society and the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. An extensive Biographical Note was published in the March 1952 issue of the *Journal* (p. 266).

He is remembered by Society *Journal* readers for his maintaining the Society's publication through World War II and then for establishing rigorous publishing standards. He was Chairman of the Board of Editors until 1955.