Obituaries

Herbert T. Kalmus

Herbert T. Kalmus, the inventor of Technicolor, died July 11, of a heart attack, at his home in West Los Angeles. Born November 9, 1881, in Chelsea, Mass., he was graduated from The Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1904, and in 1906, upon completion of postgraduate studies at the University of Zurich, Switzerland, he was granted the Ph.D degree. He returned to the United States to teach at MIT and later became Professor of Metallurgy at Queens University, Kingston, Ont. He was also Director of the Research Laboratory of Electro-Chemistry and Metallurgy, of the Canadian Government (1913–1915); joint founder of the Exolon Company, based upon technical work in the field of food products (1920–1925). Throughout these varied activities, however, ran the bright thread of his almost obsessive determination to achieve living color on the motion-picture screen, given direction by the founding of Technicolor Corp. in 1915.

The earliest Technicolor Laboratory was built within a railway car, according to Dr. Kalmus's own account set forth in the paper "Technical Adventures in Cinemaland," published in the December 1938 issue of the *Journal* (pp. 564–585). In 1917 the car was rolled over the railway tracks from Boston, where it had been equipped, to Jacksonville, Fla., where the first feature-length motion picture in Technicolor was made. This film was *The Gulf Between*. The earliest Technicolor was a two-color process, but about 1925 work was begun on a three-color process, and the 1935 film, *Becky Sharp*, is generally credited with marking the beginnings of the color era of motion picture.

At the time of his death Dr. Kalmus had been a member of the Society for a quarter of a century. In 1938 the Society awarded him the Progress Medal for his work in developing color motion pictures. In 1952 he received the Samuel L. Warner Memorial Award "for Technicolor's perfection of the imbibition process for 16mm color prints and for the techniques of making separate sound negatives for mass production by the 35mm/32mm method for excellence of 16mm sound." In 1958 Dr. Kalmus was made an honorary member of the Society.

Dr. H. H. Kurzweg, Director of Research of NASA, (left) with **Dr. Theodore von Karman** at the Social Hour of the Decennial for NOL Aeroballistics Facility in 1959.

Theodore von Karman, internationally recognized scientist in the field of aerodynamics, died suddenly May 6 in Aachen, Germany. Dr. von Karman had been a consultant to the Naval Ordnance Laboratory, White Oak, Md., in 1948 when the Laboratory's Aeroballistics Research Area was being built and equipped. In 1959 he was Chairman of the Advisory Group for Aeronautical Research and Development, NATO, and in that capacity delivered the keynote address at ceremonies marking the dedication of the Naval Ordnance Laboratory's Aeroballistic Research Facilities and the Decennial Symposium on Aeroballistics. He was a member of the Committee of Honor of the Fifth International Congress on High-Speed Photography. At that time he was Chairman of the Technical Advisory Board of the Aerojet General Corp.

Dr. von Karman came to the United States from Germany in 1930. He held a number of teaching posts in American universities and was the author of several books on aerodynamics. He was granted 13 honorary doctorates from universities in the United States, Germany, France, Belgium, Israel and Turkey. He was the first recipient of the U.S. National Medal of Science. Although best known for his work in aerodynamics, he helped design hydrodynamics systems for the Grand Coulee Dam and worked on the Mt. Palomar telescope in California.

John M. Wall

John M. Wall, whose contribution to composite sound film recording during the late 1920s was part of the revolution of motion-picture history, died July 23, in Syracuse, N.Y., at the age of 82. He was, for many years, a member of the Society. He was manufacturer of the Wall cameras used by Movietone, Pathé, Warner Brothers, March of Time and other organizations as well as government and military installations.

The Wall Intermittent Camera, patented in 1931, adumbrated the use of cameras for television recording. A paper, published in the June, 1950, issue of the *Journal* ("Television Recording Camera Intermittent," by John M. Wall) described the comparatively slight changes made in the Wall 16mm Camera Intermittent in adapting it to television.

Born in Elbridge, N.Y., in his younger days he served in the U.S. Navy and was

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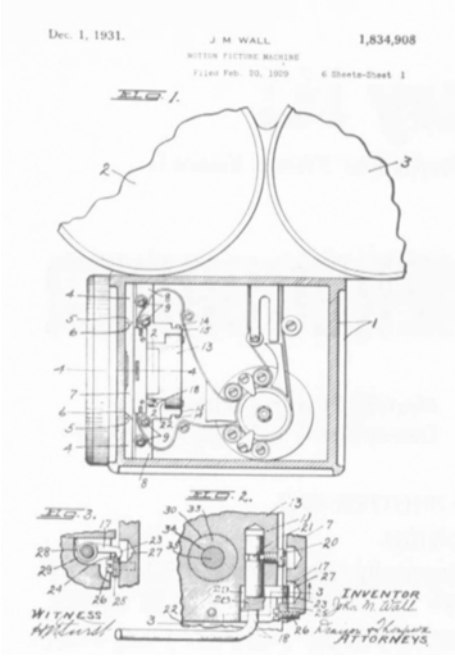

eyewitness to some of the great historic events of the late 19th century. He was in Peking during the Boxer Rebellion and in Havana when the battleship Maine was sunk. As time went on the cameras he developed made the movie-going public eyewitness to history in the making during the 20th Century. An early Wall catalog noted that "several Wall Cameras have just returned from exploring expeditions in the tropics," and that a Wall Camera "accompanied a recent expedition to the Polar regions." As a measure of the camera's quiet action, the catalog noted, "In big game hunting it has been used as close as 60 feet from a tiger without the tiger detecting it."

Mr. Wall made his home in Syracuse where he established the J. M. Wall Machine Company where his cameras were manufactured until 1958, when he sold his firm and retired. He held a number of U. S. Patents and among other inventions during World War II he developed aerial cameras that were used by United States aircraft on reconnaissance missions. His last camera creation was the three-faced Cinerama.

Books, Booklets, Brochures

This Is the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers, the Society's new informational brochure, is an 8½ by 11-in. illustrated booklet containing brief, clearly expressed answers to questions most frequently asked about the Society. It has a deep blue background on the covers against which white line drawings symbolize the Society's many interests and activities. Questions answered are such as "What is SMPTE?"; "How is SMPTE Organized?"; and "What Does SMPTE Do for Its Members?" Designed primarily for the potential member, the booklet explains in considerable detail just how to go about becoming a member of the Society, qualifications, various grades, etc., and also explains in detail the aims, purposes and programs of the Society. The booklet also has considerable value for members who may wish to have at hand condensed up-to-date information about the Society.

Ask Society Headquarters or the SMPTE Membership Chairman in your Section for copies for your file and your prospects for Society membership.

Learning and Instructional Resources Center is a 22-page illustrated booklet describing the visual communications center at the University of Miami, Coral Gables, Fla. The text of the booklet has been taken from an illustrated address given by Charles Doren Tharp, Vice-President for Administration, University of Miami, at the 18th national conference of the Association of Higher Education held in Chicago last spring. Miami's visual communications center was also the subject of a paper by C. Henderson Beal, "A New Design for a Visual Communications Center at the University of Miami" which appeared in the March, 1963, issue of the *Journal* (pp. 170–174).

Programmed Instruction Today and Tomorrow by Wilbur Schramm is a publication of the Fund for the Advancement of Education, 477 Madison Ave., New York 22, a philanthropic organization established in 1951 by the Ford Foundation to work in the field of formal education. Published in 1962, the 76-