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Obituaries



Walt Disney

Walt Disney died December 15 at the age of 65. One of the few genuinely creative geniuses of our time, his choice of the animated cartoon as his medium of expression was one of the lucky "happenings" of the twentieth century. Mickey Mouse is perhaps his most original creation, but his versions of the age-old tales of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, and Three Little Pigs, using, as they do, the recurring themes of myth and folklore represent astonishing artistic achievements. These two productions in particular have, perhaps, been more popular with adults than with children.

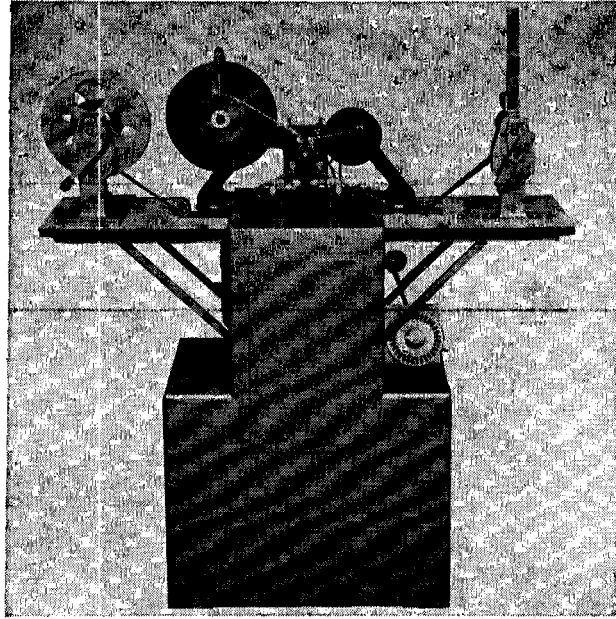
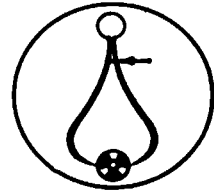
In October 1955, Walt Disney became an Honorary Member of the Society. The presentation of the Certificate of Honorary Membership was made by John Frayne at special ceremonies in New York and the citation was read at the Society's 1955 Fall Conference at Lake Placid.

The career and achievements of Walt Disney are a part of motion-picture history and legend. Some of the highlights of that career can best be recounted in his own words by means of excerpts from the brief autobiography that appeared in the January 1941 issue of the *Journal* ("Growing Pains" by Walt Disney, pp. 30-40).

"I came to Hollywood broke in 1923 and my brother Roy staked me to a couple of hundred. We lived in one room and Roy did the cooking. . . . I sold my first animated cartoon for 30 cents a foot. *Pinocchio* and *Fantasia* cost around \$300 a foot. The first *Mickey Mouse* was made by 12 people after hours in a garage. About 1,200 people are now working . . . in a 51-acre plant. . . . My first motion-picture camera was 'ad libbed' out of spare parts and a dry goods box . . . from an alley off Hollywood Boulevard. It was hand-cranked, the camera. Even then I felt the urge to grow, to expand . . . so we bought a used motor for a dollar to run the camera. It had once been a second-hand motor, but since that time it had seen everything and died. We had to hire a technician to make it go. We have been hiring technicians ever since. Our business has grown with and by technical achievement. . . . That first movie camera stands in all its ad lib splendor in a Los Angeles Museum. Our new multiplane cameras are two stories high and operate by remote control . . ."

Disney achievements since 1941, including the construction of Disneyland, are known throughout the world, as attested by the nearly 1000 awards he received from around the globe. These included 31 Academy awards, 5 TV Emmys, the Presiden-

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FEATURES

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tial Medal of Honor and four university degrees, of which one was Doctor of Fine Arts from the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA). But it may be that Walt Disney will be longest remembered for the creation of Mickey Mouse (who may someday be known as the first anti-hero), and for the grotesqueries of *Snow White*. His use of the techniques of animation has philosophic and sociological implications that have yet to be fully explored.



Nicholas James Pappas

Nicholas James Pappas, head of N. J. Pappas and Associates, Consulting Engineers and Architects, of Montreal, Canada, died January 10, 1967, at the age of 47.

His career began in 1944 when he was placed in charge of the Testing and Developing Laboratory on Studio Broadcast Equipment for the Engineering Division of Canadian Broadcasting Corp., Montreal.

In 1947 he became CBC Senior Engineer on Broadcast Systems Design and in 1951 he became CBC Supervising Engineer. In 1952 he was graduated from Sir George Williams University with the B.Sc. degree in Mathematics and Physics. Later he did graduate work at McGill University.

In 1953, Mr. Pappas left CBC to become the first Chief Engineer for McCurdy Radio Industries Ltd., Toronto. While with that firm he created engineering and product planning departments for the design and development of systems for the broadcasting industry. In 1956 he left McCurdy to undertake private engineering practice in Ville St. Laurent, a Montreal suburb. Within 10 years the endeavor that began as a one-man operation had become a far-flung organization with branches in the United States, Mexico, Hong Kong and Malaysia, with activities in other countries throughout the world. The Pappas Organization, under Mr. Pappas's direction expanded to include consulting services in architecture, structural, mechanical, electrical, vibration, electronic systems and radio-frequency engineering; as well as application and operations for broadcasting stations and networks.

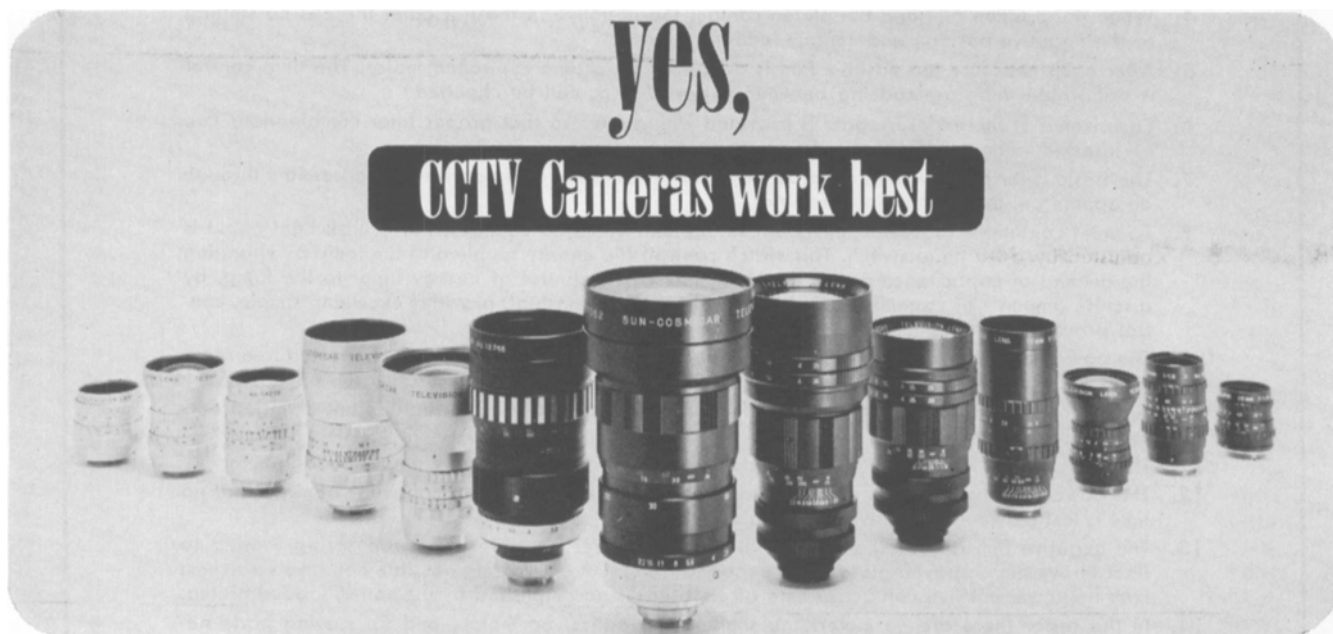
A member of the Society since 1955, he was a member of a number of other professional organizations, including the Engineering Institute of Canada, Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, Acoustical Society of America, United Nations Association, Association of Professional Engineers of Ontario and Canadian Association of Broadcast Consultants.

Willy Borberg

Willy Borberg died July 13, 1966, in the Phelps Memorial Hospital, North Tarrytown, N.Y., at the age of 64. He was born in Germany and was graduated from Polytechnic Institute at Friedburg where he studied electrical engineering. He came to the United States in 1929 and joined International Projector Corp., New York, that same year. At the time of his death he was associated with General Precision Equipment Corp. While he was with International Projector Corp. he developed the soundhead for the 35mm Four Star Simplex Sound System which was introduced in 1938 by National Theatre Supply Co. Later he designed a constant take-up device for the Simplex Projector for which he received Honorable Mention from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in 1950. In 1959 he was awarded the Academy's "Oscar" for his design of a high-speed intermittent movement for the Simplex XL Projector.

Known as an authority on motion-picture projectors, papers by Mr. Borberg appear in a number of scientific and technical publications. Among the more recent papers which appear in the *Journal* are "Effect of Gate and Shutter Characteristics on Screen Image Quality" (Oct. 1957) and (with Bernard D. Plakun) "A New Convertible Projector for 35mm and 70mm Film" (Mar. 1960).

A Fellow of the Society, he had long been active in Society Activities including service on various committees.



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