

## Biographical Notes



### J. W. Servies

J. W. Servies retired April 15 as President of National Theatre Supply Co., a subsidiary of General Precision Equipment Corp. He had been with the firm for more than 40 years. He was born in Clarkshill, Ind., and was graduated from Wabash College, Crawfordsville, Ind., in 1927 with a major in Economics. He did post-graduate work at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill. A member of the Society since 1945, he became a Fellow in 1953 and served as SMPTE President for the 1961-62 term of office. Other activities included service as Convention Vice-President (1953-1954); on the Fellow Awards Committee (1956) and as Financial Vice-President (1955-59).

Mr. Servies joined National Theatre Supply Co. in 1928. He was made a Vice-President of the company in 1952. He was made Executive Vice-President in 1965 and was elected President in 1966. Following his retirement he will continue to work on special projects for the firm.



### Gordon A. Chambers

Gordon A. Chambers began his career with Eastman Kodak in 1921 while he was still an undergraduate. He worked during

vacations as an assistant physicist in Kodak Research Laboratories while attending St. Lawrence University, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. In 1926 he was graduated, cum laude, with the degree of Bachelor of Science. Immediately following graduation he was employed full-time in the Physics Department of Kodak Research Laboratories where he assisted in the early development of the science of sensitometry and its application to sound on motion pictures and quality control of sound motion-picture film processing. As a specialist in sensitometry and densitometry, he was transferred to Hollywood (1929) to assist in developing special films for sound recording and for training studio engineers. While in Hollywood, he supervised the installation of Eastman Model II-B sensitometers in film processing laboratories and also supervised the introduction of the Capstaff densitometer.

In 1942 his career with Eastman Kodak was interrupted by his volunteering for duty with the United States Navy. He was assigned to the U. S. Navy Photographic Science Laboratory, at Anacostia, D.C., which he helped to organize, and in 1945 he was discharged with the rank of Lieutenant Commander. He then returned to Eastman Kodak and was assigned to the Motion Picture Film Division in Rochester. He was appointed Director of Engineering Services of the Motion Picture and Education Markets Division in 1965 after having

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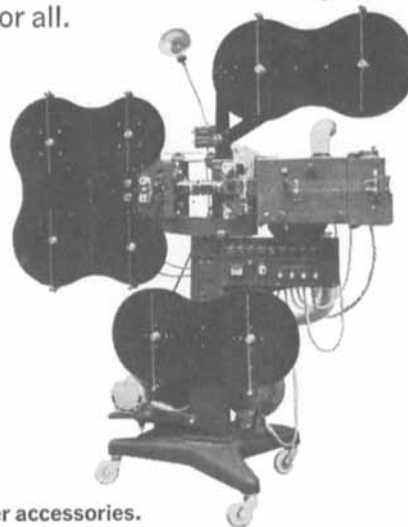
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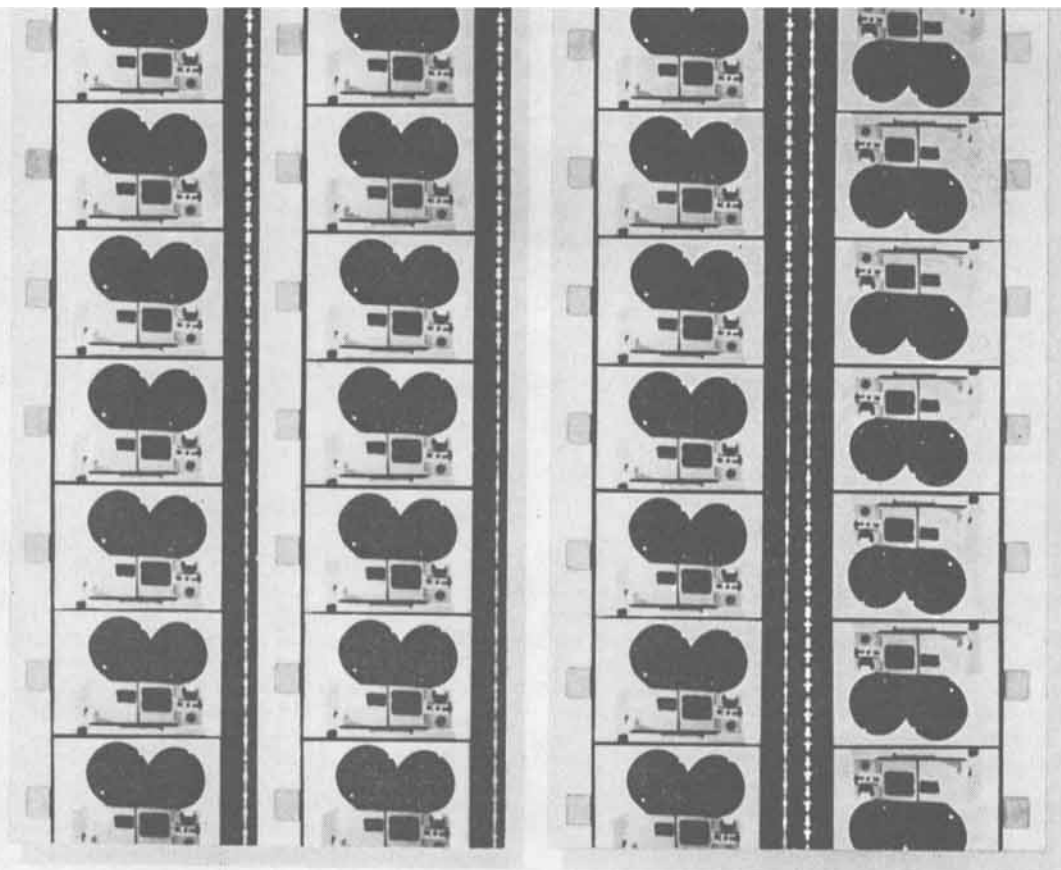
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# **RCA**

served as Manager of the Southern Division of the Motion Picture Film Department. He retired in January 1968. He is succeeded by George Gordon.

He has been a member of the Society since 1929 and attained the rank of Fellow in 1941. His many activities on behalf of the Society include the chairmanship of the Papers Committee (1947-1948) and of the Standards Committee (1962-1965). He was a member of the Board of Governors from 1953 to 1956 and in 1965 he was appointed Member-at-Large of the Standards Committee. He was a delegate to the International Standards Organization meetings of Technical Committees 36 (Cinematography) and 42 (Photography) at Milan in 1965 and Moscow 1967.

In 1967 he was recipient of the Society's Progress Medal Award which was presented at the Conference in Chicago. This award recognizes outstanding technical contributions to the progress of engineering phases of the motion-picture and/or television industries.

Following his retirement, Mr. Chambers is continuing to work in the field of standards and will continue as Member-at-Large of the Society's Standards Committee and as a member of ISO/TC 36 WG-3 on Sound.

**Edward Schmidt** retired from industrial activity in January after many active years in the motion-picture industry. He was especially well known as an expert in the

video-tape field. He was graduated from Lebanon Valley College in 1937 with a B.S. degree and from 1937 to 1949 he was affiliated with the Photo Product Dept. of E. I. du Pont de Nemours Co. In 1949 he joined Reeves Sound Studios and in 1950 he became Vice-President and Director of Reeves Soundcraft Corp. where he was responsible for the development and manufacture of all types of magnetic tape. In 1965 he joined Magnetic Products Div. of Radio Corp. of America, Victor Record Division, where his work was extensively involved with video tape development.

A member of the Society since 1946 and a Fellow since 1956, he was long a member of the Video-Tape Recording Committee and also took part in other activities of the Society.

His response to the *Journal's* request for information about his retirement plans could well be described as a blueprint for the ideal post-retirement era. He now resides in Maryland in "a small house on a nice quiet creek where I can keep my boat and learn how to fish, crab, clam and oyster-hunt and birdwatch. I miss the daily challenges of making video tape and the thrill of seeing it supplant and begin to replace silver-halide products for image-storage purposes, but on the other hand, I have learned to identify a few birds that were only dim names to me before."

Mr. Schmidt asks that the notice in the *Journal* about his retirement include his best wishes to his many friends in the Society.



**Alfred R. Ulmer**

Alfred R. Ulmer, an authority on the sensitometry and process control of variable-area photographic sound recording, has been a member of the Society since 1936 and a Fellow since 1965. He is now a Life Fellow. He was born in 1901 and is a graduate of Bucknell University with a B.S. degree in Engineering. Now retired (November 1966), most of his professional life was spent with Radio Corp. of America. In 1935, the RCA International Division sent Mr. Ulmer to Argentina to make the first permanent installation of sound-recording equipment in that country. Other professional activities included quality-control work for the RCA Sound Recording Studio in New York (1937-1942) and

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Licensee Contact Engineer for RCA licensees in the Central and Eastern States (1942-1960). In 1960 he was assigned to RCA Service Co. and was stationed at Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Ala., where he worked on a motion-picture project which involved filmed progress reports on missile systems. His work included installation and maintenance of sound systems.

In 1949, Mr. Ulmer was granted a U.S. Patent for the invention of a mask aperture to be used in the optical system of a recorder to eliminate the need for two masking apertures in the slit aperture plate. The entire operation of both recording and exposing the masking areas on the sides of the track was produced through one long slit in the slit aperture plate made possible by the unique shape of the opening in the mask aperture plate. In speaking of his invention, Mr. Ulmer said that as far as he knew it had never been used in the United States but had been assigned for use in several foreign countries.

When asked about his trip to Argentina, Mr. Ulmer recalled that it was "quite interesting, even somewhat exciting." In his own words, "Since as a student engineer, I had worked with such pioneers in sound recording as Edward Kellogg, Glenn Dimmick, Larry Sachtleben and Art Blaney in what was then RCA Photophone Division, RCA International Division thought I had enough information to impart to the Argentinian technicians, even though my Spanish was limited.

"When I arrived in Argentina, I found that it was not just a simple job of installing equipment and training technicians. Not a thing had been done. So we bought a used 35mm Bell & Howell camera. It was noisy. So we built a blimp and also built a dolly and even a microphone boom. The disc recording studio needed help so we changed the acoustics of the studio and built movable acoustic baffles. Then with the help of Argentinian technicians, I connected several pieces of existing equipment into the new sound recording equipment and a mix on a three-reel picture with Spanish narration. I considered the sound anything but good, but they thought it was wonderful. It was in Spanish! It did not need titles to explain American narration. After many heartbreaking moments of 'making do' with what we had in the way of equipment and of trying to train technicians who were groping in an entirely unfamiliar field, we were finally ready to start production."

Mr. Ulmer's many activities on behalf of the Society include service on the Membership Committee (1955-1956) and on the Samuel L. Warner Award Committee. He has also been very active in assisting the educational work of the Society. He recalls his efforts in getting together instructors, meeting places for the SMPTE course in Sound Recording Techniques during his service as a member of the Education Committee.

## Books Reviewed

### Fiber Optics—Principles and Applications

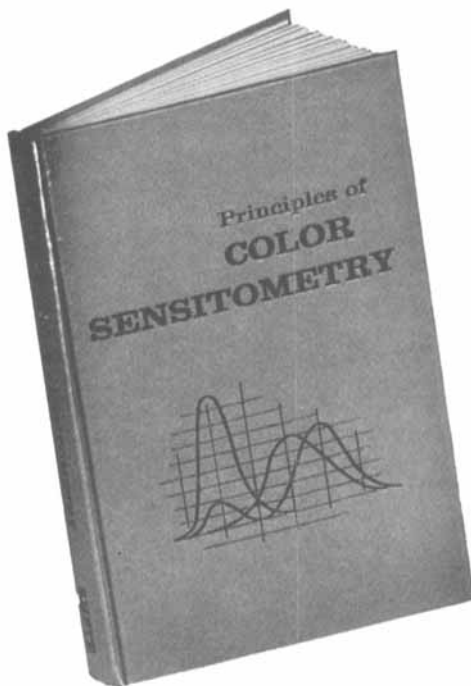
By N. S. Kapany. Published (1967) by Academic Press, 111 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10003. 429 + xviii pp. incl. glossary, indexes, bibliography, appendixes. Illus. Diagrams. 6 by 9 in. Price \$17.50.

A comprehensive treatise on fiber optics is overdue and the publication by Dr. Kapany has filled the need.

The book is especially valuable in that it has the fullest bibliography of the subject which has yet appeared. The author is well qualified to write this work since he contributed to the early work at Imperial College, London, and later at the Illinois Institute of Technology Research Institute. From the work performed at these two establishments, the fiber optics industry in the United States has developed rapidly.

Starting from basic optical principles, the book opens with an excellent chapter on the theory of geometrical and physical optics of fibers, which will provide the reader with a guide on how to specify and select a fiber optics component for a particular application. A chapter on the phenomena of waveguide propagation and coupling is a good treatment and is of especial importance when the use of extremely small fibers is contemplated.

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