Obituaries

Joseph E. Aiken

Joseph E. Aiken, a Fellow and a Life Member of the Society, died July 16, 1969, at the age of 69. He was a resident of Arlington, Va.

He was graduated from the University of Illinois in 1922 with the degree of Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering. Following graduation he joined Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Co. in Pittsburgh as Radio Engineer, specializing in audio-frequency equipment and operational techniques for radio broadcasting. In 1928 he left Westinghouse to join 20th Century-Fox Film Corp. in Beverly Hills, CA, as production sound mixer. Between 1928 and 1943 his name was on the screen credits for some 80 productions. He joined the U.S. Navy in 1943 and he attained the rank of Lieutenant Commander. He was assigned to the Photographic Science Laboratory at the U.S. Naval Air Station at Anacostia, DC, as assistant to the head of the Sound Recording Division. The following year he was made Sound Recording Division Officer in charge of all re-recording and original recording at the activity.

His first association with the Society was in 1943 when he attended its technical conferences as a representative of the U.S. Navy. He became a member in 1945 and was made a Fellow of the Society in 1949. His activities in behalf of the Society included service on several committees, among them the Film Dimensions Committee, the Samuel L. Warner Award Committee, the Progress Committee and the Eastern Membership Committee. He also served as Eastern Vice-Chairman of the Papers Committee and, in that capacity, helped to assemble the papers program for the Society's 64th (1948) Conference in Washington, DC.

For the 72nd (1952) Conference he filled two full-sized jobs, those of Program Chairman and of Local Arrangements Chairman. He was Program Chairman for the two succeeding Washington, DC, Conferences — the 75th and the 81st.

His dedication to the aims and purposes of the Society was especially apparent in his skillful handling of these assignments, and particularly in the long hours of work resulting in the history-making 72nd Conference. That included arrangement for the presentation of 44 papers in seven sessions of an International Symposium on High-Speed Photography assembled by John H. Waldell. Those papers were subsequently published and became known as the *Proceedings of the First International Congress on High-Speed Photography*.

The traditional Monday Get-Together Luncheon at the 72nd Conference was unusual in that Mr. Aiken arranged for three speakers, each representing a branch of the U.S. Department of Defense — Major General George I. Back representing the Army, Brigadier General Brooke E. Allen representing the Air Force and Captain A. D. Fraser representing the Navy.

The 75th Conference, with Mr. Aiken acting as Program Chairman, also was a memorable Conference which was highlighted by the historic Pioneer Dinner held May 4, 1954, in honor of 26 members of the Society who were members in 1924 and earlier. Other highlights of the Conference arranged by Mr. Aiken included an evening at the National Archives and a Theater Session held in Loew's Capitol Theater.

Mr. Aiken, together with others at the Navy Photo Science Laboratory took part

in the development of a colophon or symbol for SMPTE. The end result came from Lorin D. Grignon's efforts working with students at the University of Southern California. Many tentative designs were submitted. The one finally chosen was the work of Melvin L. Stewart ,then a Senior and commercial design student at USC (*Journal*, p. 81, Jan. 1952). It is still in use. He was the author of an historical paper, "Technical Notes and Reminiscences on the Presentation of Tykociner's Sound Picture Contributions" in the August 1958 issue of the *Journal*. The paper is especially interesting because of Mr. Aiken's personal association with Prof. Tykociner during 1921 and 1922 while Mr. Aiken was attending the University of Illinois.

Joseph Aiken's technical and professional achievements are a matter of record. Perhaps not so well known is that he had wide interests outside motion-picture engineering. For example, he was an ardent Civil War buff, and an authority on rifles from that era. He was an expert gunsmith, and built his own outstanding collection of Civil War guns by rebuilding specimens for other collectors in return for examples he could restore for his own collection, which is currently valued at many thousands of dollars. He took along a rifle and his Civil War regiment uniform to the Society's October 1955 convention in Lake Placid, having heard that the traditional banquet was to be a costume affair. It was, and he won first prize for the best costume; many old timers will remember how handsome and impressive he looked. Now that we are to see him no more, it is comforting to remember what a really fine person he was—*R. T. Van Niman and William E. Youngs*

Joseph Tykocinski Tykociner

Joseph Tykocinski Tykociner, Resident Professor of Electrical Engineering, Emeritus, at the University of Illinois, died June 11 at Urbana, IL. He came to the University in 1921 as one of its first research professors in electrical engineering and, on June 9, 1922, he presented, at the university, one of the first public exhibitions of sound on motion-picture film. The sound-on-film demonstration followed about 10 months of developmental work at the university (with a reported budget of less than $1,000).

Prof. Tykociner was born in Poland in 1867 (see "Joseph T. Tykociner: Pioneer in Sound Recording" by John B. McCullough, *Journal*, pp. 520–521, Aug. 1958). He displayed talent in the field of science and electronics at an early age and, despite the opposition of his father, who was a grain broker and wanted his son to enter the family business, the young Tykociner acquired scientific training and went on to become one of the pioneers whose work helped bring about the age of sound in motion pictures.

Some of his experiments are described in a paper which appeared in the *SMPE Transactions* of May 1923 (pp. 90–119), "Photographic Recording and Photoelectric Reproduction of Sound" by J. Tykocinski-Tykociner.

Many honors accrued to him during his life, among them, the Award of Merit of the National Electronics Conference "in recognition of his many significant contributions, during a career that spans half a century, to education and research in electrical and electronics engineering" (*Journal*, p. 894, Oct. 1964). This presentation was the third made by NEC since the award was established in 1944.

In addition to his work in the development of sound motion pictures, Prof. Tykociner held patents in submarine signaling, photoelectricity, cable testing piezoelectricity, techniques of radio measurements, antenna models and microwave development.

Since his official retirement from the University in 1948, he had worked to develop zetetics, the science of research. He defined zetetics, a science he founded and developed, as "the new interdisciplinary science, wherein the whole of human knowledge is systematized as a guide to future investigation and creativity; its goal is to interrelate all that is known in the arts and sciences in order to discover the gaps in knowledge."

An evaluation of his work by Joseph Aiken appears in the August 1958 issue of the *Journal* ("Technical Notes and Reminiscences on the Presentation of Tykociner's Sound Picture Contributions" by Joseph E. Aiken).

Mr. Aiken, whose obituary appears immediately above, was personally associated with Prof. Tykociner at the University of Illinois in 1921 and 1922.