

## Obituaries



**Max C. Batsel**

Max C. Batsel, a Life Fellow of the Society, died in February 1968 at the age of 74. He was born in Fulton, KY, and attended the University of Kentucky. From 1916 until 1918, when he joined the Signal Corps of the U.S. Army, he was with the Bureau of Standards. In 1920 he joined Westinghouse Electric & Manufacturing Co. in East Pittsburgh, PA, where he was the engineer in charge of design and development of radio receiving apparatus and related developments. In 1929 he joined Radio Corp. of America where he remained in various capacities until he retired in 1959. At the time of his retire-

ment he was Chief Technical Administrator of the RCA Defense Electronics Products in Camden, NJ.

He joined the Society in 1928 and became a Fellow in 1945. Through the years he contributed a great deal of time and effort to the Society. From 1929 through 1933 he was a Manager of the New York Section and he was a Manager of the Atlantic Coast Section for the 1936-37 term. He served as a member of a number of committees, including the Standards, Sound, Television Projection Practice, Journal Award and Progress Award Committees. From 1931 to 1933 he was Chairman of the Standards Committee (then known as the Standards and Nomenclature Committee). He was a Governor of the Society for the 1935-36 term and was again elected in 1938. He then served as Governor through 1940. He also served on various subcommittees and Convention Committees.

He was the author of a number of technical papers. Among those appearing in the *Journal* are: "Recording Music for Motion Pictures" (Aug. 1935); "Improved Noise Reduction System for High-Fidelity Recording," with J. O. Baker and H. J. Hasbrouck (Sept. 1937); "Reproducing Equipment for Motion-Picture Theaters," with C. M. Reifsteck (June 1937) and "RCA Sound Recording System," with E. W. Kellogg (May 1937).

*Note:* Upon a request to John I. Crabtree the following tribute has been received by the Editor of the *Journal*.

With the death of Max Batsel, the Society lost one of its most able and devoted members. Formerly in charge of sound motion-picture engineering research for RCA, various phases of his work were described in his contributions to the *Journal*, and also in papers contributed by his associates.

During the period of evolution of sound recording on motion-picture film, he played a major role in the contest between variable-density and variable-area methods of recording.

He had a kindly and unassuming demeanor that gained him a host of friends and he was ever ready to devote time and effort to the many problems of the Society. During the early years when the Society had neither a central office nor paid employees, Max was always ready to provide projection equipment during Conferences at out-of-the-way places (Lake Placid, Swampscott, etc.) for the education and entertainment of the members.

### Robert F. Blair

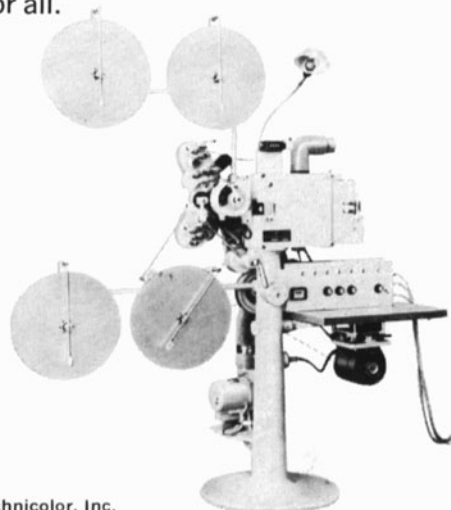
Robert F. Blair died November 28, 1968, at his home in Cleveland, OH. He was born January 5, 1897. He attended Yale University and was graduated with the BA degree. Following graduation he became an advertising agency executive and he entered the field of film and TV through selling syndicated film programs to TV stations. He then founded a film

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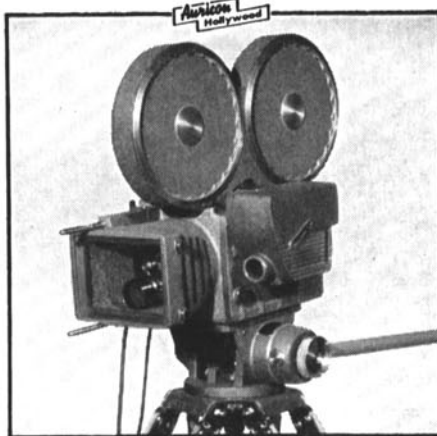
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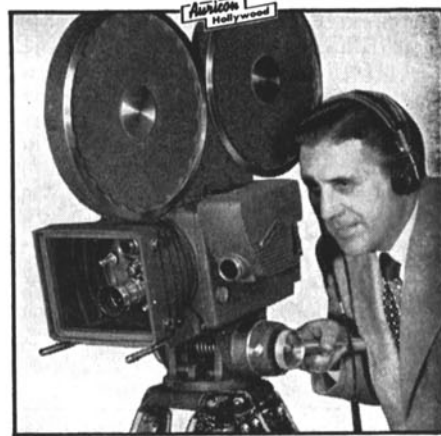


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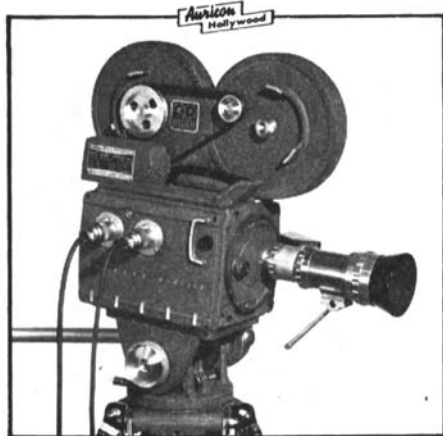
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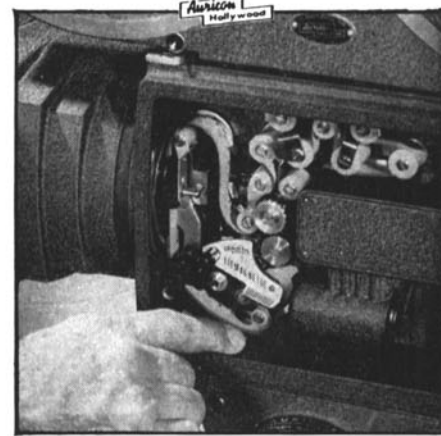
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Mr. Blair retired in 1967 after selling Labcraft to Holland-Wegman Productions. He had been a member of the Society since 1958.



Robert W. Byloff

Robert W. Byloff, President of the Reeves Video Division of Reeves Broadcasting Corp., New York, died January 18, 1969, at the age of 47. He was born in Scarsdale, NY, and was graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1943 with the degree of Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering. During World War II he served as a captain in the U.S. Marine Corps. He joined National Broadcasting Co. in 1946 and he was a member of the joint RCA-NBC systems engineering team that began the first successful broadcasting of color television for NBC. As Manager of Advance Planning, he redesigned NBC's studio facilities in New York, Washington and Burbank for compatibility with color. He joined Reeves Broadcasting Corp. in 1959 to build a video facility. Techniques developed by Mr. Byloff while at Reeves have influenced procedures throughout the entire television industry.

Mr. Byloff joined the Society in 1959. He was active in Society affairs and for many years he served as a member of the Video-Tape Recording Committee. He was also a member of the Television Academy of Arts and Sciences.

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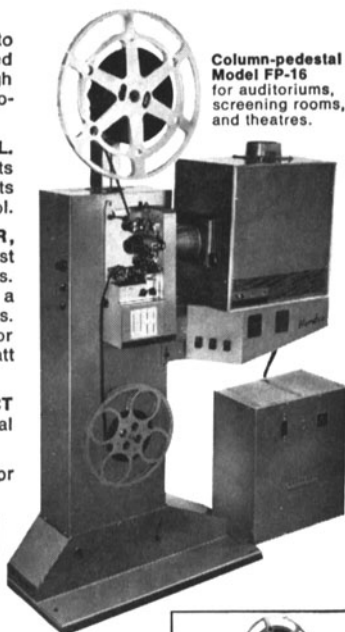
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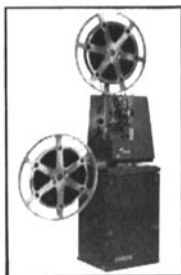
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Y. Frank Freeman

Y. Frank Freeman, a Vice-President of Paramount Pictures for 30 years until his retirement on January 1, 1967, died February 5, 1969, in Los Angeles. He was 78 years old. He was born in Greenville, GA, and attended Georgia Institute of Technology. He joined S. A. Lynch Theatrical Enterprises, which later became a division of Paramount Pictures. In 1936 he became a Vice-President and a Director of Paramount Pictures in charge of the organization's theater interests throughout the world.

In 1938, Mr. Freeman moved to the West Coast as Vice-President and head of Paramount Studios, a post he held until 1959. Active in industry causes, he was the recipient of the first annual Jean Hersholt Award for Humanitarian Services, presented by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in 1957.

Over the years Mr. Freeman had expressed a warm interest in the Society. He had appeared at various Conferences and had many friends among the Society members.

## Irving Dooh

Irving Dooh died November 10, 1968, in Montreal, Canada, at the age of 55. He attended Yenching University in Peking,

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