Obituaries

Alfred C. Robertson

Alfred C. Robertson, a Life Fellow of the Society, died September 21, 1970, at his home at 206 Albemarle St., Rochester, N.Y. He was 70 years of age. He was born in Dayton, Ore., and attended Oregon State University and the University of Wisconsin where he received the Ph.D. degree in Physical Chemistry. He continued his studies as a National Research Council Fellow at California Institute of Technology and as a Research Associate at the University of Illinois and as an American-Scandinavian Fellow in Copenhagen, Denmark.

He joined Eastman Kodak Co. in 1934 as a production experiments engineer in the Manufacturing Experiments Div. at Kodak Park Works from which he retired in 1966 after 32 years of service devoted mainly to research in motion-picture technology. He was Chairman of the International Standards Committee of the (then) American Standards Association until his retirement. In that capacity he was instrumental in setting up standards for super-8 film. One of his earliest projects (1936) was designing the air filter used in Kodak plants to prevent film damage from air particles. He also did research for the Manhattan Project during World War II.

He joined the Society in 1946 and became a Fellow in 1952. His many contributions to the Society include service on various committees including 16mm and 8mm Motion-Picture Film, Instrumentation and High-Speed Photography, Laboratory Practice, Standards, Progress and Membership Committees.

Richard Thomas

Richard Thomas died November 10, 1970, at the age of 72, in Long Beach, Calif., where he was a consulting engineer. He was born November 25, 1898, in Austin, Ill. He was educated by private tutors and during his life he developed more than a hundred processes, techniques and devices, many of which were related to motion-picture engineering and many of which were patented. He developed the color process called Thomascolor and founded a firm known as Thomascolor Corp. of which he was President and Director for five years. The firm is now known as Colorvision, Inc.

He began his career at the age of 18 as a cameo carver and portrait artist and was awarded an international prize for miniature sculptures. Two years later he entered the motion-picture field where he became a director and producer at such studios as Columbia, Paramount and RKO. He then decided to spend his time and abilities on the technical and engineering aspects of motion pictures.

Among the many inventions for which he was granted patents is the Gastroscope, a device used to take a color photograph of the inside of a patient's stomach. He was

also credited with developing a three-color aerial camera for camouflage detection and a number of lenses for special effects as well as other equipments. During World War II he was a consulting engineer at Wright Field.

He joined the Society in 1945.

Frank Papalia

Frank Papalia, 63, died December 10, 1970, in Rome, Italy, where he had spent several months. At the time of his death he was General Manager of Precision Film Laboratories.

He was born in Italy and attended the Institute of Technique from which he was graduated in 1922. He was employed by Consolidated Film Industries in Hollywood from 1924 until 1936 when he joined Precision Film Laboratories. During World War II he joined the United States Navy and assisted in establishing the processing section of the U.S. Naval Photographic Laboratory in Anacostia, Md., where he trained Navy personnel in photographic techniques. After the war he returned to Precision Film Laboratories. Among his contributions to the motion-picture industry was the development of the first mechanical cleaning machine. Earlier he had assisted in the development of the technique of printing 16mm Kodachrome Dupes.

He joined the Society in 1943 and was made a Fellow in 1968.

Norman R. Olding

Norman R. Olding died in Kelowna, B.C., September 15, 1970, after little more than two years of retirement. He was born in Hawaii, November 20, 1903, of Canadian parents who returned to Nova Scotia in 1910.

At the age of 11, he assembled his first ham transmitter and was started on a long and distinguished career in radio and television. From 1921 to 1923, he operated amateur station 1 AM in New Glasgow, N.S.; from 1925 to 1927, he operated VE-3-BV and VE-3-XA in Windsor, Ont.; and from 1934 to 1936, he operated an experimental television transmitter VE-9-AG in Windsor.

In 1932, he assisted in the installation and test of CKLW and was retained as Engineer-in-Charge of the transmitter. In 1935, he supervised the installation of the Canadian Radio Broadcasting Commission's first Windsor outlet, CRCW. From 1932 to 1937, he worked with Jack Beardall in Chatham, Ont., and helped him to establish experimental broadcasting station, 10AT, which later became CFCO.

In January 1937, he was appointed to the CBC staff as the first Regional Engineer and the region was British Columbia. While in British Columbia, he was largely responsible for the development of the Low Power Relay Transmitter. The first permanent installation was made in Revelstoke, B.C., Oct. 22, 1940. The initial units proved so popular that similar installations were made in Ontario and at present, some 240 LPRTs are serving all parts of Canada up to the Arctic Circle. He also developed a technical training program for CBC's technical staff. From 1937 to 1939 and from

1941 to 1945 he also served as Acting Prairie Regional Engineer.

In March 1945, he was appointed Operations Engineer in the engineering headquarters of CBC. During this period, he was responsible for the setting up of Standards of Technical Operations and Maintenance by means of various publications, circulars, directives, etc., and also secured approval for the employment of technical instructors and the setting up of technical training courses. In cooperation with External Affairs and under the Colombo Plan, training was provided to radio and television technicians in many of the developing commonwealth countries, including Ghana, Malaysia, British West Indies, and others.

More recently, as Technical Staff Operations Officer, he conducted the initial experimental setup of CBC's television Frontier Package designed to provide limited TV coverage to isolated villages and towns in Canada outside the normal reception range of existing TV stations and at points in the far north where network extensions would be far too costly.

His career spanned 45 years in radio broadcasting and 39 years in television, beginning with his first TV receivers in 1927.

He joined the Society in 1955 and was made a Fellow in 1963. He was a member of the Television Committee and served as Chairman of two subcommittees. He is the author of "Universal Leader for Release Prints" in the January 1965 issue of the *Journal*.

He had been a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers since 1926 (then the IRE). He was a member of the IEEE Professional Group on Broadcast Transmission Systems. He was Chairman of the Montreal Section of the IEEE from 1951 to 1953. He was Chairman of Panel 7 and a member of three committees of the Canadian Standards Association. He was also a member of Broadcast Engineers, Inc.

He will long be remembered by many friends and colleagues for his leadership and true dedication to radio and television. The industry has lost one of its truly great pioneers.—*L. C. Harrop*

Arthur C. Davis

Arthur C. Davis died November 7, 1970, at the age of 62 in Santa Ana, Calif. At the time of his death he was Vice-President of the Audio Controls Div. of Altec Lansing in Anaheim, Calif.

He was born in Salt Lake City on March 11, 1908. He had little formal education and at the age of 14 he started his career in motion pictures as an assistant cameraman. He also worked as a projectionist in theaters; he worked in laboratories; did cutting and editing and designed and built sound trucks, among other activities.

By 1929 he was the owner of his first manufacturing firm, the Universal Research Laboratories in Inglewood, Calif., which manufactured an early version of the condenser microphone. Later he worked as a sound engineer for Fearless Camera Co. where he designed and built sound recording equipment. He joined RCA Corp. as Layout Engineer and in 1936 he laid out the Columbia Studio lot and later the RKO Studio lot. While with RCA Corp., he started Cinema Engineering Co. to manufacture attenuators and other equipments for studios. The firm expanded rapidly and in 1938 he left RCA to devote more time to Cinema Engineering Co. In 1953 he sold it to Aerovox Corp., and in 1958 he started Electrodyne which later became Sonotec.

In 1963 he joined Altec Lansing as Vice-President of the new Audio Controls Div. He was one of the co-inventors of Altec Acousta-Voicing and the designer of the original Acousta-Voicing equalizer. He also designed, developed and produced the entire Audio Controls product line. In addition to his other activities, he trained and assisted young engineers.

He joined the Society in 1944 and became a Fellow in 1967. He was also a Fellow of the Audio Engineering Society and in 1962 he was the recipient of the John H. Potts Award, the highest award conferred by the Audio Engineering Society.