

Obituaries



Sherman M. Fairchild

Sherman Mills Fairchild died March 28, 1971, in the Roosevelt Hospital in New York after a long illness. An active inventor whose interests ranged widely in photography (particularly aerial photography), aircraft, sound recording and electronics, he founded a number of firms (some of them of brief duration) to activate his various inventions. For example, following his invention of an aerial camera, he founded the Fairchild Aerial Surveys Corp. in 1920 for aerial surveys and mapmaking. Later, he founded the Fairchild Recording Equipment Co. to carry out his ideas of sound recording. Still in existence are the Fairchild Camera and Instrument Corp. and the Fairchild Hiller Corp. of which Republic Aviation in Farmingdale, L.I., is a division. He was Chairman of both firms at the time of his death.

Inherited wealth (in the millions) enabled him to pursue his interests and to found organizations to implement his inventions. His father was George W. Fairchild, a founder and first president of International Business Machines Corp. Sherman Fairchild was a Director of IBM and said to be the largest single shareholder.

He was handicapped in youth by tuberculosis which caused him to leave Harvard College in his sophomore year. He volunteered for service in World War I, but was rejected because of his health. However, his knowledge of aerial photography enabled him to give valuable advice to the U.S. Signal Corp.

His interest in aerial photography was sparked during a tour of the photographic laboratories at Eastman Kodak Co. He reportedly identified certain problems in the construction of aerial cameras and later devised his own. From his survey work in aerial photography he became interested in the whole field of aviation and founded a firm to manufacture airplanes to his specifications including the innovation of an enclosed cabin and folding wings. In October 1970 he was honored by the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., to mark his 50th anniversary in the aviation industry.

His early interest in photography continued with his invention of a front-projection background system that permitted a superimposition of images that left the front subject clear through the use of a

special screen. He held some 30 patents for aerial cameras, airplane designs and electronic devices.

He was a Fellow of the Society and was also a member of the Institute of Aeronautical Sciences and the Royal Aeronautical Society.

Ben Schlanger

Ben Schlanger, a Life Fellow of the Society, died May 3, 1971, at the age of 66. An internationally known architect and theater designer, he was one of the most important contemporary influences on the design of modern motion-picture theaters. As long ago as 1931 (the year he became a member of the Society) he suggested a radically new design for a motion-picture theater in a paper entitled "Reversing the Form and Inclination of the Motion Picture Theater Floor for Improving Vision" (*Journal*, August 1931).

Mr. Schlanger was born in New York, studied at Columbia University and was graduated from the National Institute for Architectural Education in 1932. He designed the Colonial Williamsburg Theater in which two identical auditoriums, each seating about 250 people, are placed back to back and served from the same central projection booth. He designed, in collaboration with Abraham W. Geller, Cinema I and Cinema II (two theaters in a single building) in New York City. He was also involved in the design of the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, the John F. Kennedy Center in Washington, the Place des Arts in Montreal, the Shiela Theatre 70 in New Delhi and many other theaters in many countries. One of his last assignments was that of consultant in the construction of the Sydney Opera House in Sydney, Australia, which houses a modern cinema theater.

He was the recipient of the Albert S. Bard architectural award in 1964, and had held several Ford Foundation grants. He was Chairman of the Committee on Auditorium and Theater Architecture of the American Institute of Architects and he was a trustee of the National Institute of Architectural Education.

(A Biographical Note giving a brief account of Mr. Schlanger's life and achievements appears on p. 1030 of the November 1970 issue of the *Journal*.)

Geoffrey L. King

The death of Geoff King in October, 1970, ended a career of devotion to the 16mm film industry in Australia.

Born December 10, 1903, he was educated at Sydney Church of England Grammar School ("Shore") and trained in engineering as assistant to consulting engineer, R. J. N. Frankie. He joined the Australian General Electric Co. and became Refrigeration Sales Manager.

Foreseeing a future in the, then, infant 16mm film format, Geoff King founded Kinelab Film Service in August, 1931. This organization under his managerial and technical guidance recorded the first commercial 16mm sound films in Australia and later became the first Australian laboratory to produce 16mm sound color prints on Kodachrome 1 film.

He became Managing Director of Kine-



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lab Pty. Ltd. when this company was formed in 1939. During World War II he led Kinelab Pty. Ltd. in a rapid expansion program necessary to produce and print training films for the Australian Armed Services. This task called for great ingenuity as, at the time, a plant was almost unprocurable and materials very scarce. In postwar years, Geoff King adapted the production unit of Kinelab Pty. Ltd. to make industrial films, an activity which was later discontinued in order to concentrate on laboratory activities.

Shortly before the commencement of television broadcasting in Australia, he was appointed Film Consultant to Television Corp., the company which operates TCN Channel 9, the first Australian television station to commence regular transmission. Geoff King after his retirement as Managing Director of Kinelab Pty. Ltd. maintained an active interest in the company as a director and major shareholder.

His intense devotion to the industry left little time for any hobbies except flying, which was his main recreation. He was the holder of a commercial pilot's license in his physically active years and a member of the Royal Aero Club of New South Wales and also of Early Birds, an organization of people actively interested in flying prior to 1939.

He was an active member of the SMPTE, also of the BKSTS and the IREE Australia. Geoff King will be long remembered for his personality and his willingness to impart his knowledge and experience to those who sought it.—*Russel W. Knight*

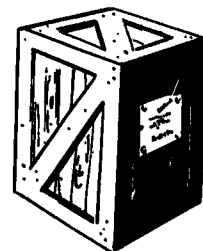


William B. Spooner

William B. Spooner died April 27, 1971, at the age of 73. At the time of his death he was Manager of the Western Division of Carbons, Inc., in Glendale, Calif. (The firm's headquarters are in Cedar Knolls, N.J.) Mr. Spooner had been with the firm for many years as a technical representative and before being assigned to the Glendale office in 1963 he had traveled widely on business for the firm. His activities in the motion-picture industry included work as a cameraman, projectionist, producer and developer of equipment. He did considerable research on metallic screens and at the time of his death he had become recognized as an expert in motion-picture projection and as being especially able in the art of properly lighting a motion-picture screen. At one time he was interested

in the development of a 3-D system without glasses using multiple screens.

He joined the Society in 1955. He was a contributor at meetings of the Film Projection Practice Committee at many of the Society Conferences. Bill will be missed by a host of friends and business associates.—*Frank H. Riffle*



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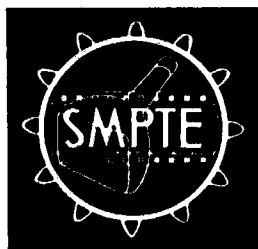
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Further information about these items can be obtained direct from the addresses given. As in the case of technical papers, the Society is not responsible for manufacturers' statements, and publication of these items does not constitute endorsement of the products or services.

The P & T Motion Repeating System for motion-picture and television cameras, designed to repeat exactly the pan, tilt and zoom lens motion of a 35mm or 16mm camera, has been developed by Sherry Shourds, 10149 Toluca Lake Ave., North Hollywood, CA 91602. The system was developed primarily for use with traveling matte or split screen shots so that fully repeatable camera movements could be given to scenes of these types. In operation, the cameraman photographs the principal action in the usual way, using pan, tilt and zoom. The motion repeating system encodes and records these moves. When the camera is placed back on the original start mark, the recording is played back and the camera is driven in the identical moves that were originally recorded while the second half of the split screen or the background of the matte shot is photographed. The system can also be used in a remote control operation where the cameraman operates the master camera, and, simultaneously, a second, or slave camera, duplicates the motions of the master camera. A visual synchronizing mark is provided so that two or more pieces of film or tape, shot at different times, can be synchronized and their camera movements matched. An audio track is available for cuing purposes. The system weighs about 125 lb and can be operated by one person. It is presently available on a rental basis.

Development of a new magnetic particle called Cobaloy, resulting from the research efforts of the Graham Magnetics organization, has been announced by Graham Magnetics Inc., Graham, TX 76046. Cobaloy is expected to permit an increase of about 400% in the recording densities per inch of all magnetic tapes for home and professional use. It is reported to

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